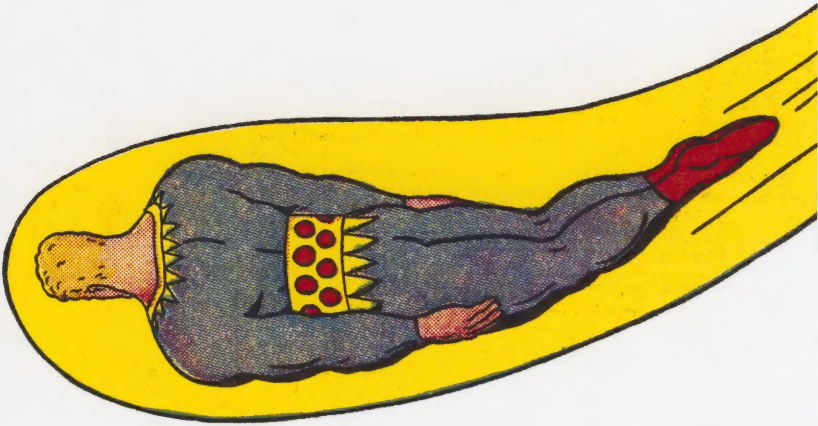
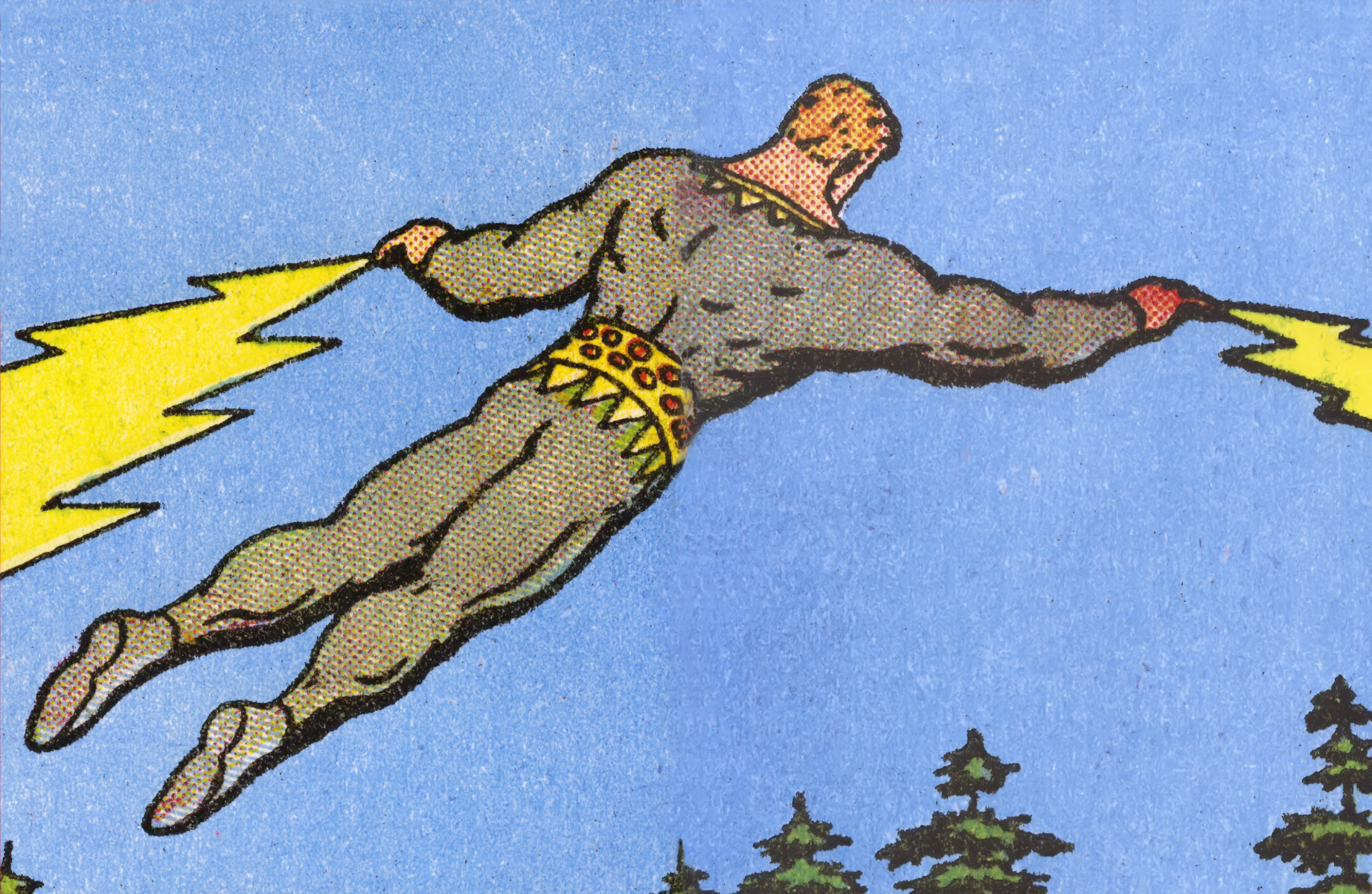


FLETCHER HANKS

I SHALL DESTROY ALL THE CIVILIZED PLANETS!

Edited and with an Afterword by Paul Karasik



"MEET YOUR DOOM!"
For introducing me to the work of Fletcher Hanks, thanks to Jerry Moriarty, Françoise Mouly, and Art Spiegelman.

"YOU CRAVED GOLD, SO HERE IT IS!"
For hot tips, warm leads, and cold hard comic books thanks to Jerry Bails, Kenneth Barnes, Michael Feldman, Ron Goulart, Martha Kennedy, William Nolan, Steve Rogers, Joost Swarte, and Roy Thomas.

"I'LL SOON OWN EVERYTHING!"
For generously allowing special access to their comics vaults thanks to Jon Berk and Mark Verheiden.

"I CAN USE THEM IN MY PLAN TO WRECK CIVILIZATION!"
For Super-Wizardry above and beyond, a special thanks to my pal, Mark Newgarden, and my sister, Judy Karasik.

FLETCHER HANKS

I SHALL DESTROY ALL THE CIVILIZED PLANETS!

1 *FANTASTIC #1*: "Presidential Assassination" featuring Stardust

7 *JUNGLE #15*: "Org's Giant Spiders" featuring Fantomah

14 *FANTASTIC #11*: "Skullface Takes Over New York" featuring Stardust

22 *JUNGLE #10*: "The Flaming Claws" featuring Fantomah

29 *FANTASTIC #13*: "The Fifth Columnists" featuring Stardust

37 *FIGHT #2*: "The Red River Gang" featuring Big Red McLane

42 *FANTASTIC #7*: "Gyp Clip's Anti-Gravity Ray" featuring Stardust

49 *JUNGLE #9*: "Lions Loose in New York" featuring Fantomah

56 *FANTASTIC #16*: "Slant Eyes" featuring Stardust

64 *PLANET #7*: "Lepus and the Colliding Planets" featuring Buzz Crandall

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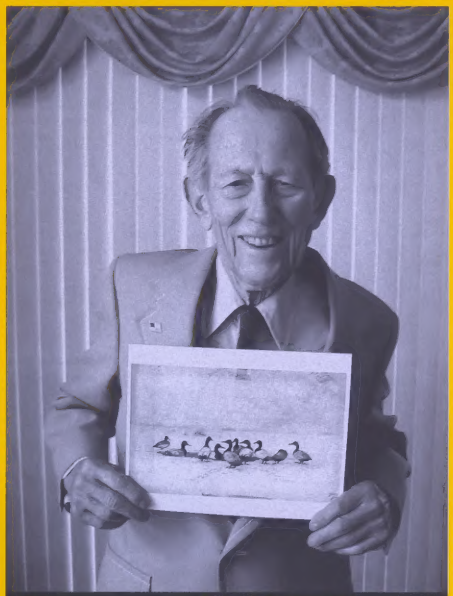
101 *FANTASTIC #5*: "Wolf Eye's Vacuum Tubes" featuring Stardust

107 AFTERWORD: "Whatever Happened to Fletcher Hanks" by Paul Karasik



This book is dedicated to FLETCHER HANKS, JR.

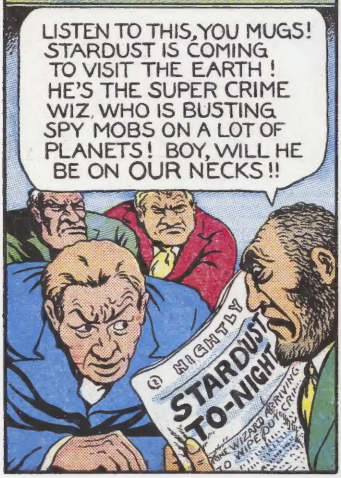
THE SUPER WIZARD STARDUST

By FLETCHER HANKS

WHILE A SECRET ARMY OF SPIES, AND MURDEROUS TERRORISTS CONSPIRE TO UNDERMINE BUSINESS, AND THE GOVERNMENT, A DISTANT RADIO CALL IS PICKED UP IN AMERICA — A MESSAGE TRANSMITTED FROM SOMEWHERE OUT IN SPACE!

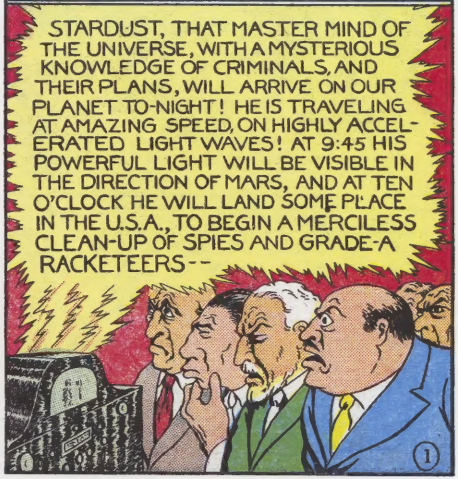
IMMEDIATELY, NEWSPAPER EXTRAS CARRY STARTLING HEADLINES ---

LISTEN TO THIS, YOU MUGS! STARDUST IS COMING TO VISIT THE EARTH! HE'S THE SUPER CRIME WIZ, WHO IS BUSTING SPY MOBS ON A LOT OF PLANETS! BOY, WILL HE BE ON OUR NECKS!!

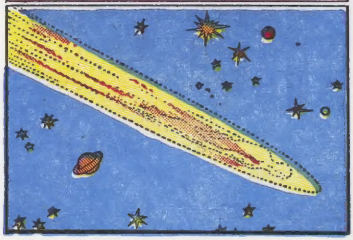


THE BROADCASTING COMPANIES FILL THE AIR WITH DETAILS THAT TERRIFY EVEN OUR BIG-SHOT PUBLIC ENEMIES ----

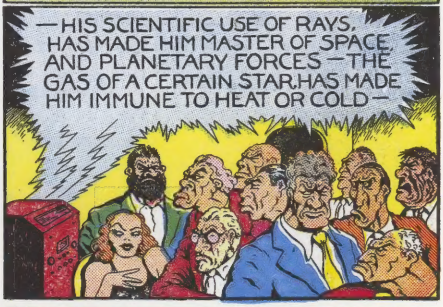
STARDUST, THAT MASTER MIND OF THE UNIVERSE, WITH A MYSTERIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF CRIMINALS, AND THEIR PLANS, WILL ARRIVE ON OUR PLANET TO-NIGHT! HE IS TRAVELING AT AMAZING SPEED, ON HIGHLY ACCELERATED LIGHT WAVES! AT 9:45 HIS POWERFUL LIGHT WILL BE VISIBLE IN THE DIRECTION OF MARS, AND AT TEN O'CLOCK HE WILL LAND SOME PLACE IN THE U.S.A., TO BEGIN A MERCILESS CLEAN-UP OF SPIES AND GRADE-A RACKETEERS --

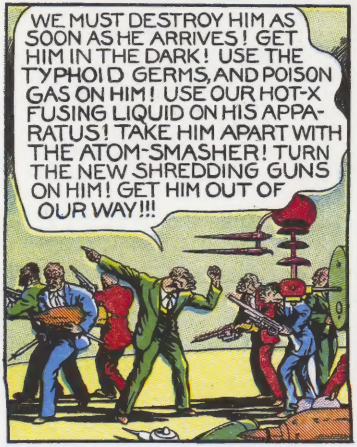


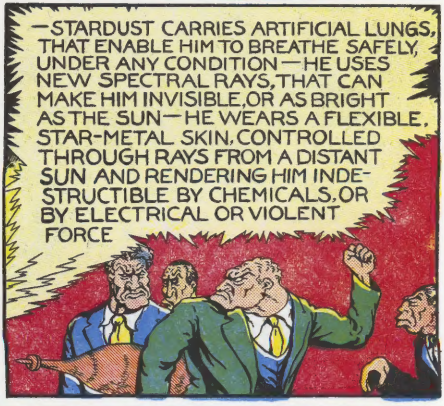
AS THE BROADCASTING IS CONTINUED, THE SPEEDING STARDUST DRAWS CLOSER TO THE EARTH, AND—

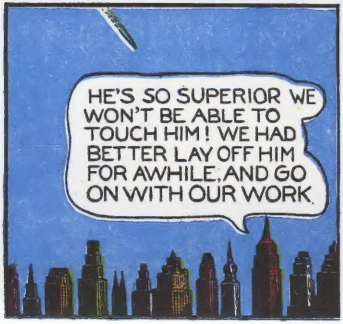


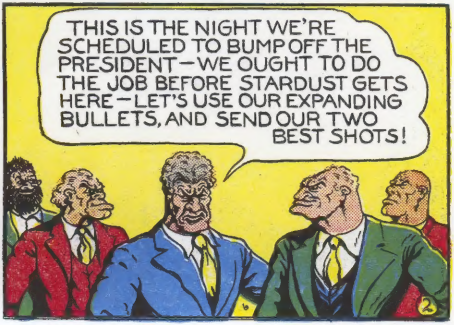
—THE LEADERS OF THE SECRET ARMY OF SPIES AND TERRORISTS, CALL AN EMERGENCY MEETING . . .











TWO KILLERS SOON CROUCH AT A WINDOW, WAITING FOR THEIR MAN.

WHEN THE PRESIDENT GETS OUT, WE'LL PLUG HIM FULL!

SUDDENLY, A DULL SHOCK VIBRATES THE ROOM . . . .

WHAT WAS THAT?

I DUNNO! I'VE LOST ALL MY STRENGTH

AND, FROM OUT OF A BLINDING LIGHT, THUNDERS A COMMAND.

GET UP!

AS THE WOULD-BE ASSASSINS JUMP TO THEIR FEET, THE LIGHT DISAPPEARS . . . .

YOU ARE NOW IN THE POWER OF STARDUST

STARDUST WHISKS THEM THROUGH THE WINDOW

HE MAKES HIMSELF INVISIBLE—

—AND DELIVERS THEM TO THE STARTLED POLICE . . . . .

HOLD THEM FOR TREASON

UNAWARE OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED, THE SPY LEADERS PLAN FURTHER CRIME AND DESTRUCTION

WHILE THE PRESIDENT IS BEING WIPED OUT, WE'LL BLOW UP THE CAPITOL!

WE'LL USE OUR NEW LIQUID-FLAME BOMBS!

THE BIG BOMBING PLANES OF THE SPY ARMY SOON SWARM OVER THE CAPITOL
THERE'S OUR SIGNAL!
FROM OUT OF THE HEAVENS, FALLS A SHOWER OF BOMBS, POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DEMOLISH A CITY
AT THE SAME TIME, THE BRILLIANT FORM OF STARDUST, SHOOTS ACROSS THE SKY —
HE MEETS THE BOMBS IN MID AIR, AND BY USE OF HIS ANTI-GRAVITY RAY, HE CHANGES THEIR COURSE —
AT DAZZLING SPEED, HE STEERS THE BOMBS TO A POSITION ABOVE THE FLEEING SPY PLANES
LOOK!! STARDUST!! WITH OUR BOMBS!
THEN, HE GIVES THE SPIES A DOSE OF THEIR OWN MEDICINE
FROM A SECRET TOWER, THE SPY LEADERS WATCH THE DISASTER
WE MUST DESTROY THIS SUPER-WIZARD! HE'S WIPED OUT EVERY PLANE!
LET'S USE THE ATOM-SMASHER ON HIM!
4

THE SPIES PREPARE TO USE THEIR MOST DEADLY WEAPON, THE HUGE ATOM-SMASHER, ON STARDUST...

ADJUST THE LONG-RANGE AUTOMATIC FINDER···GET A FOCUS AND SMASH HIM INTO FOG!!

WHEN STARDUST FEELS THE FINDER BEING FOCUSED ON HIM, HE RELEASES HIS POWERFUL BOOMERANG RAY, AND THE ATOM-SMASHER SMASHES ITSELF.... THE SPIES FLEE IN PANIC . . . . . .

STARDUST ARRIVES IN THE ROOM, AND USES HIS MAGNETIC RAY, TO DRAW THEM BACK WITHIN REACH..

THEN, HE HURLS THEM RAPIDLY THROUGH THE WINDOW . . .

JUST BEFORE THEY CRASH UPON A HOUSE-TOP, STARDUST USES HIS SUSPENDING RAY, AND THE SPIES SUDDENLY HANG HELPLESS IN THE AIR, NOT FAR ABOVE THE ROOF..

YOU CAN STAY THERE, TILL THE G-MEN COME AND GET YOU!

THEN STARDUST RELEASES A SECRET RAY THAT BRINGS IN FRONT OF THE SPIES, THE SKELETONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, THEY HAVE KILLED . . . . . .

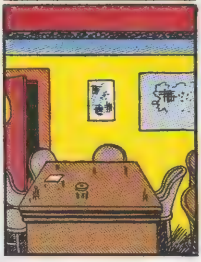
GAZE AT THEM, FOR AWHILE!

AT THE OFFICE OF THE G-MEN, A STRANGE VIBRATION SUDDENLY ROCKS THE ROOM, AND THE MEN FEEL DAZED AND HELPLESS ---

SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON!

THE VIBRATION IS FOLLOWED BY A FLASH--

—AND THE ROOM BECOMES EMPTY..



THE G-MEN FIND THEMSELVES ON THE HOUSE-TOP

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

GOOD LORD! LOOK UP THERE!

THE SKELETONS VANISH, AND STARDUST APPEARS BESIDE THE BEWILDERED G-MEN . . . . . .

ABOVE YOU, ARE THE LEADERS OF THE SPY ARMY, WITH MY COMPLIMENTS! IN FIVE MINUTES, THEY WILL DROP! GOOD LUCK!

THAT'S **STARDUST!** AND WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO THANK HIM!

IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF FANTASTIC COMICS, **STARDUST** BATTLES "**RIP-THE-BLOOD**"

FANTOMAH

MYSTERY WOMAN OF THE JUNGLE

By BARCLAY FLAGG

FANTOMAH, THE MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN THAT EVER LIVED, DEVOTES HER PHENOMENAL POWERS TO PROTECTING THE JUNGLE-BORN . . . .

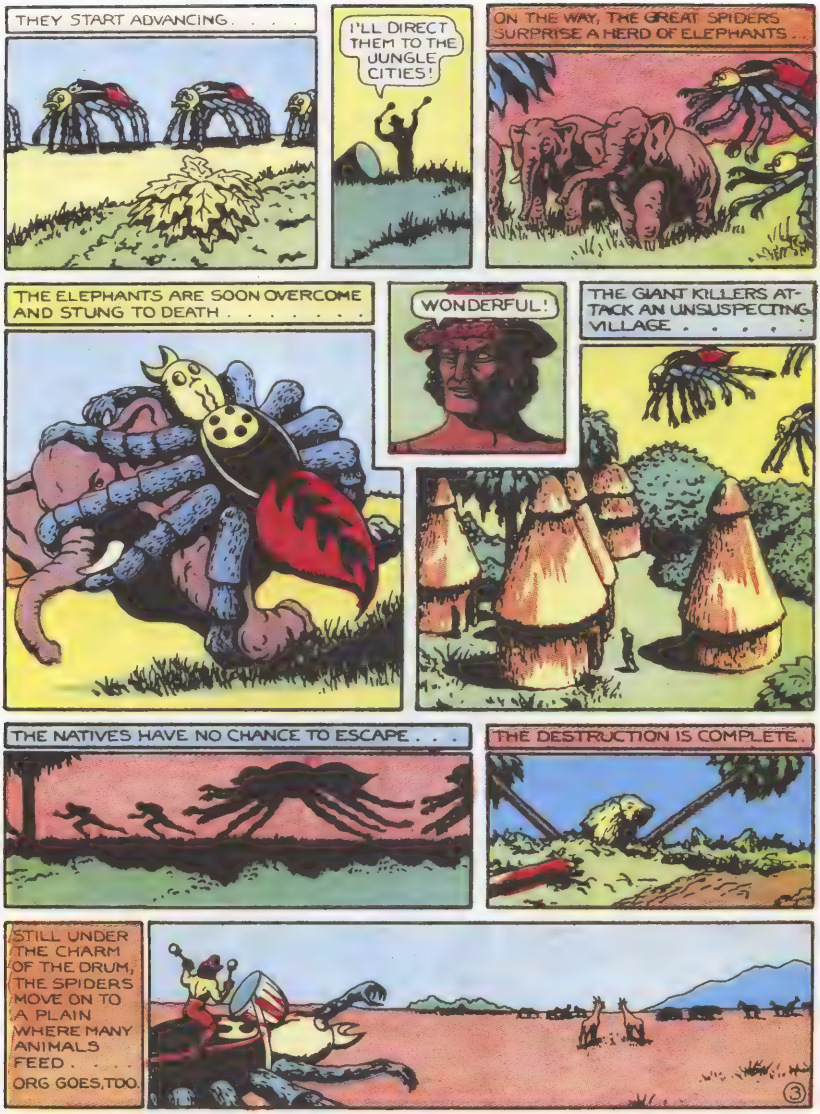
HER VIGILANT EYE IS ATTRACTED TO A NATIVE NAMED ORG . . . . . .

ORG, POSSESSING HYPNOTIC POWERS WITH A JUNGLE DRUM, HAS A SECRET AMBITION TO RULE ALL JUNGLELAND.

WHILE TRYING TO DEVISE SOME SCHEME TO ACHIEVE HIS AMBITION, ORG ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERS A GROUP OF GIANT HUNTING SPIDERS IN AN UNEXPLORED VALLEY.

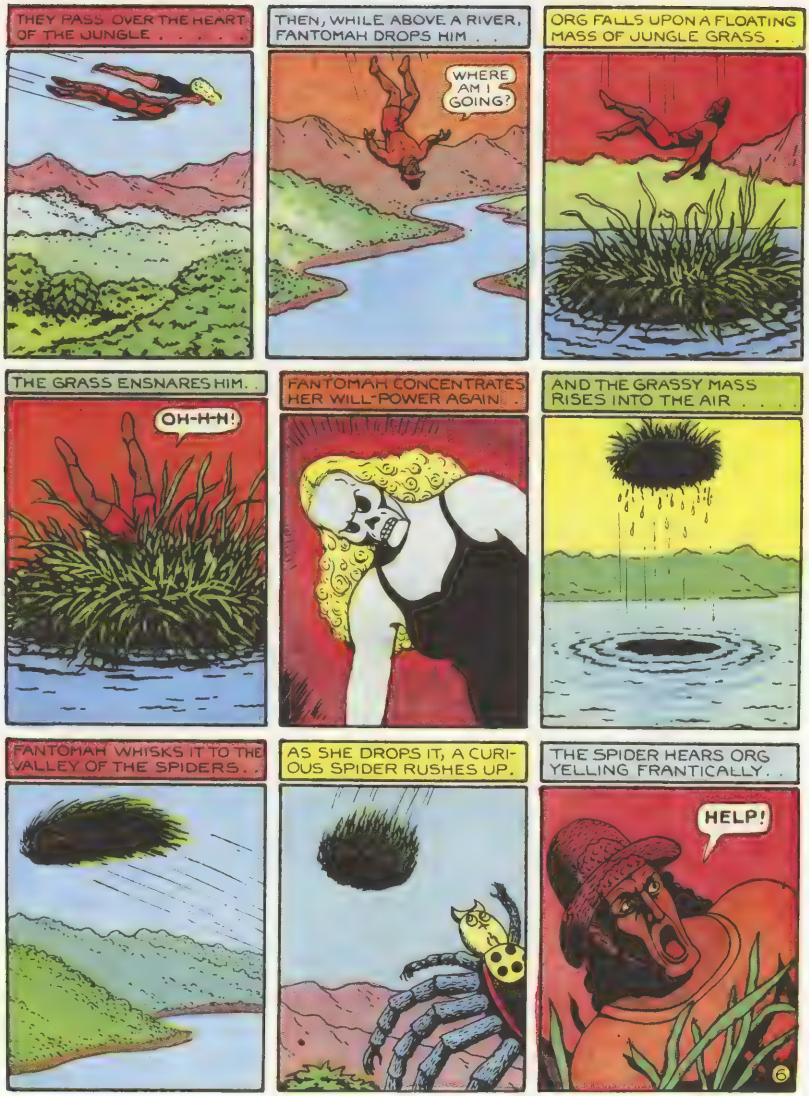
FASCINATED BY THEIR GIGANTIC SIZE, HE WATCHES THE SPIDERS FOR DAYS, AND FINDS THAT THEY ARE RAVENOUS KILLER BEASTS, PREYING ON OTHER CREATURES.

ORG HIMSELF IS FORCED TO FLEE FOR HIS LIFE WHEN HIS PRESENCE IS DISCOVERED.
THEIR FEROCIOUS NATURE IMPRESSES HIM. . . .
I CAN USE THOSE GIANT SPIDERS TO HELP ME CONQUER THE JUNGLE.
THE KEEN FANTOMAH, ALWAYS ALERT FOR TROUBLE, SENSES HIS PLOT. . . .
HE'S PLANNING TO CHARM THE SPIDERS WITH HIS DRUM, AND THEN ORGANIZE THEM FOR AN INVASION OF THE REST OF THE JUNGLE!
AS FANTOMAH WATCHES, ORG RETURNS WITH HIS DRUM. .
I MUST STOP THIS HORROR!
ORG BEGINS HIS WEIRD DRUM-BEATING . . . .
THE SPIDERS SOON RESPOND TO ITS POWER . .
THEY COME TO THE EDGE OF THE VALLEY . . . . .
AH! I NOW HAVE THEM UNDER MY CONTROL!
ORG THEN ARRANGES THEM IN A MILITARY FORMATION.
2


THEY START ADVANCING . . . .
I'LL DIRECT THEM TO THE JUNGLE CITIES!
ON THE WAY, THE GREAT SPIDERS SURPRISE A HERD OF ELEPHANTS . . .
THE ELEPHANTS ARE SOON OVERCOME AND STUNG TO DEATH . . . . . .
WONDERFUL!
THE GIANT KILLERS ATTACK AN UNSUSPECTING VILLAGE . . . . .
THE NATIVES HAVE NO CHANCE TO ESCAPE . . .
THE DESTRUCTION IS COMPLETE.
STILL UNDER THE CHARM OF THE DRUM, THE SPIDERS MOVE ON TO A PLAIN WHERE MANY ANIMALS FEED . . . .
ORG GOES, TOO.
3

THE ANIMALS THAT ARE NOT FAST ENOUGH TO ESCAPE ARE KILLED.
THEN THE SPIDERS HEAD FOR A SACRED WALLED CITY . . .
THEY LEAP OVER THE WALLS . . .
IN THE CONFUSION THAT FOLLOWS, PEOPLE DIE BY THE THOUSAND . . .
THE CITY IS QUICKLY EVACUATED BY THE SURVIVORS.
AND ORG GLOATS OVER THE CONQUEST . . . . .
I'LL SOON OWN EVERYTHING!
AS HE GLOATS, THE RAGING FANTOMAH APPEARS . . .
IN HER RAGE, SHE BEGINS TO CHANGE FORM . . . .
ORG, YOUR TIME HAS ARRIVED!
THE CHANGE IS COMPLETED.
NOW YOU WILL PAY A DREADFUL PENALTY!
4

MEANWHILE, ORG BEATS HIS DRUM WILDLY, AND YELLS TO HIS DEMONIZED SPIDERS.
AS FANTOMAH EXERTS HER CONCENTRATED WILL-POWER, ORG SUDDENLY LOSES CONTROL OF HIS STICKS. . .
THE SPIDERS IMMEDIATELY BECOME TIMID . . . . . .
AND THEY START STAMPEDING BACK TO THEIR VALLEY. . . .
YOUR MURDEROUS REIGN OF TERROR IS OVER, ORG!
ORG, IN A BURST OF FURY, TRIES TO KILL FANTOMAH . . . .
YOU WON'T DO THIS TO ME!
FANTOMAH QUICKLY REPULSES HIM WITH A SUPER SUPERIORITY BEAM . . . .
AND ORG COLLAPSES.
FANTOMAH THEN WHISKS HIM INTO THE AIR.
NOW YOU'RE GOING TO YOUR DOOM!
5


THEY PASS OVER THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE . . . . .
THEN, WHILE ABOVE A RIVER, FANTOMAH DROPS HIM . .
WHERE AM I GOING?
ORG FALLS UPON A FLOATING MASS OF JUNGLE GRASS .
THE GRASS ENSNARES HIM. .
OH-H-H!
FANTOMAH CONCENTRATES HER WILL-POWER AGAIN . .
AND THE GRASSY MASS RISES INTO THE AIR . . . .
FANTOMAH WHISKS IT TO THE VALLEY OF THE SPIDERS . .
AS SHE DROPS IT, A CURIOUS SPIDER RUSHES UP.
THE SPIDER HEARS ORG YELLING FRANTICALLY . .
HELP!
6

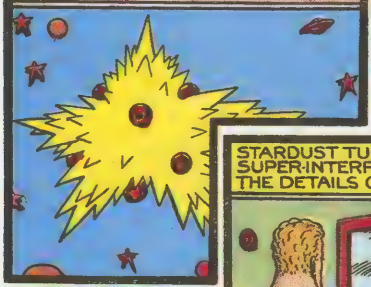
ENRAGED BY THE SOUND OF A HUMAN VOICE, THE GIANT SPIDER LEAPS UPON ORG.
THAT IS THE END OF THE FIEND!
WITH ANOTHER PHENOMENAL DISPLAY OF POWER, FANTOMAH REDUCES THE SPIDERS TO HARMLESS SIZE.
THEY'LL NEVER KILL ANY MORE JUNGLE-BORN.
MEANWHILE, THE SURVIVORS OF THE SACRED CITY GO BACK HOME . .
AND THE JUNGLE IS NORMAL AGAIN . . . . . .
FANTOMAH THEN RETURNS TO HER NATURAL FORM . . . . . .
MY JOB IS DONE.
IN A VOICE THAT PENETRATES THE ENTIRE JUNGLE, SHE BIDS FAREWELL.
WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT FANTOMAH?
MORE OF FANTOMAH'S REMARKABLE EXPLOITS IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

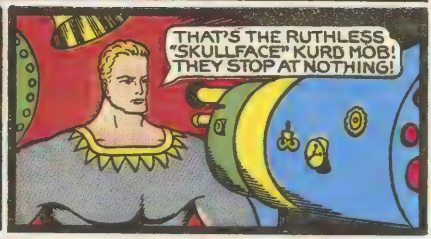
THE SUPER WIZARD STARDUST

BY FLETCHER HANKS

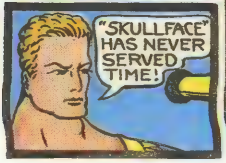
STARDUST, WHOSE VAST KNOWLEDGE OF INTERPLANETARY SCIENCE HAS MADE HIM THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN THAT EVER LIVED, DEVOTES HIS ABILITIES TO CRIME-BUSTING..

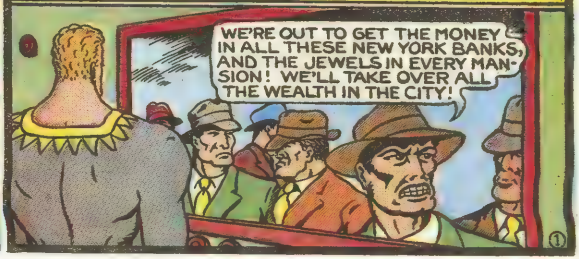
FROM HIS CRIME-DETECTING LABORATORY ON HIS PRIVATE STAR, HE DISCOVERS A LARGE ORGANIZATION OF GANGSTERS ON THE EARTH, PLOTTING TO CAPTURE NEW YORK'S IMMENSE SUPPLY OF WEALTH . . . . .

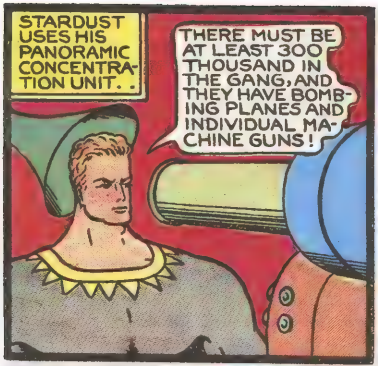


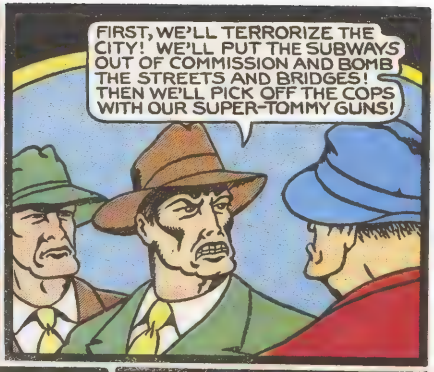


STARDUST TUNES IN THE THOUGHT-RECORDER ON HIS SUPER-INTERPLANETARY TELEVISION SET, AND LEARNS THE DETAILS OF "SKULLFACE'S" MONSTROUS PLOT . . .





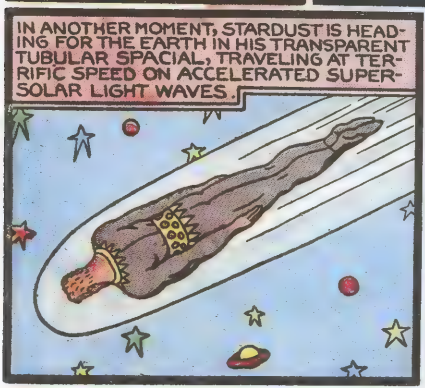

STARDUST USES HIS PANORAMIC CONCENTRATION UNIT. .
THERE MUST BE AT LEAST 300 THOUSAND IN THE GANG, AND THEY HAVE BOMBING PLANES AND INDIVIDUAL MACHINE GUNS!


FIRST, WE'LL TERRORIZE THE CITY! WE'LL PUT THE SUBWAYS OUT OF COMMISSION AND BOMB THE STREETS AND BRIDGES! THEN WE'LL PICK OFF THE COPS WITH OUR SUPER-TOMMY GUNS!

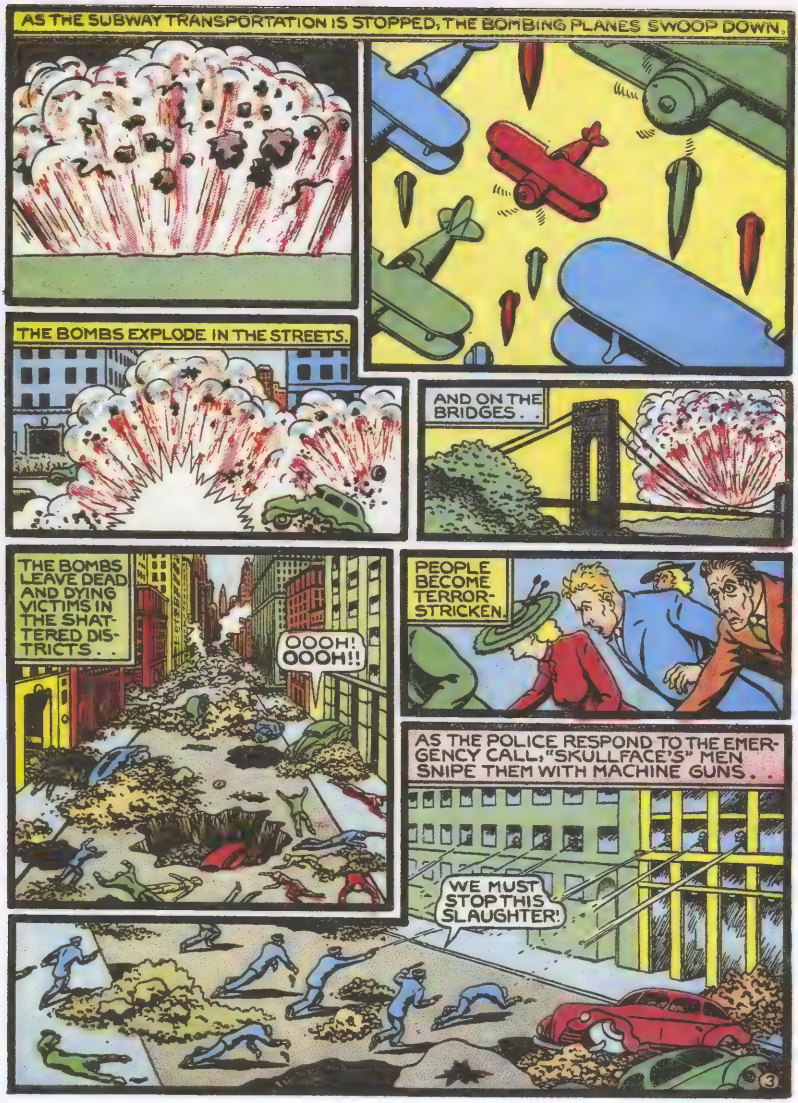
WHEN THE COPS ARE ALL OUT OF THE PICTURE, WE CAN TAKE OVER! IF WE CARRY OUT OUR PLANS CAREFULLY, IT WILL BE A CINCH!

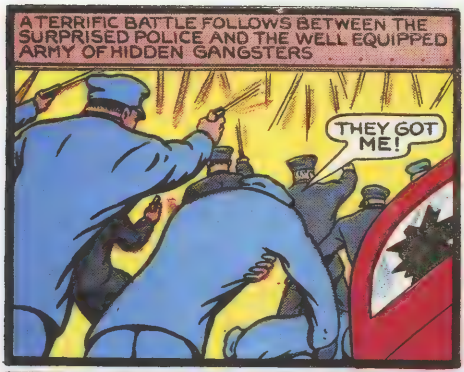
LET'S GET GOING, "SKULLFACE"! WHAT ARE THE ORDERS?

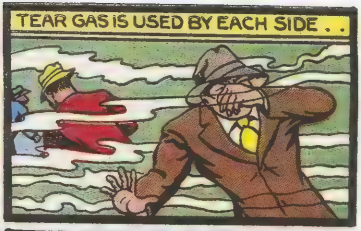
THEY'RE GETTING THE BOMBING PLANES READY, AND NEW YORK HAS NO ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS!
I HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!


IN ANOTHER MOMENT, STARDUST IS HEADING FOR THE EARTH IN HIS TRANSPARENT TUBULAR SPACIAL, TRAVELING AT TERRIFIC SPEED ON ACCELERATED SUPER-SOLAR LIGHT WAVES.

BEFORE THE PLANES BEGIN THEIR ATTACK, THE GANGSTERS PLACE POWERFUL TIME-BOMBS IN THE SUBWAYS . . . . . .
WE MUST STOP TRANSPORTATION COMPLETELY!


AS THE SUBWAY TRANSPORTATION IS STOPPED, THE BOMBING PLANES SWOOP DOWN.
THE BOMBS EXPLODE IN THE STREETS.
AND ON THE BRIDGES . .
THE BOMBS LEAVE DEAD AND DYING VICTIMS IN THE SHATTERED DISTRICTS . .
OOOH! OOOH!!
PEOPLE BECOME TERROR-STRICKEN.
AS THE POLICE RESPOND TO THE EMERGENCY CALL, "SKULLFACE'S" MEN SNIPE THEM WITH MACHINE GUNS . .
WE MUST STOP THIS SLAUGHTER!
3

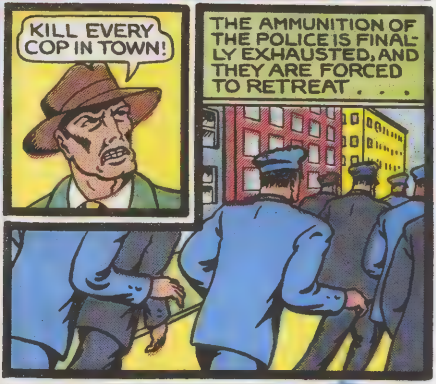

A TERRIFIC BATTLE FOLLOWS BETWEEN THE SURPRISED POLICE AND THE WELL EQUIPPED ARMY OF HIDDEN GANGSTERS . . .
THEY GOT ME!

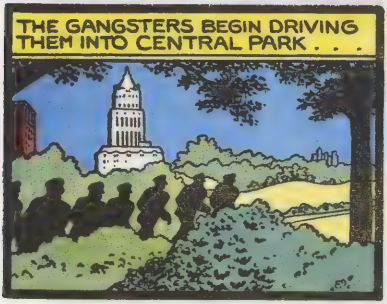

TEAR GAS IS USED BY EACH SIDE . .

"SKULLFACE" CONTACTS HIS BOMBERS . . .

AS THE POLICE BEGIN TO GET THE UPPER HAND, THE BOMBERS MAKE ANOTHER ATTACK, AND THE POLICE ARE SLAUGHTERED . . . . . .

KILL EVERY COP IN TOWN!


THE AMMUNITION OF THE POLICE IS FINALLY EXHAUSTED, AND THEY ARE FORCED TO RETREAT . . .

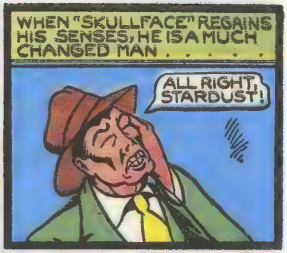

THE GANGSTERS BEGIN DRIVING THEM INTO CENTRAL PARK . . .

THE BOMBING PLANES ABOVE ARE ALL WAITING UNTIL THE POLICE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER . . . . . .

BUT WHEN THE PLANES ARE READY TO DISCHARGE THEIR DEADLY LOAD, A STAR-SHAPED FLASH APPEARS ABOVE THEM . .
FROM OUT OF THE FLASH, SWOOPS STARDUST, RELEASING POWERFUL FUSING RAYS . . . . . .
I'M JUST IN TIME!
THE PLANES IMMEDIATELY CURL INTO DISTORTED AND USELESS WRECKS .
AND AS STARDUST USES HIS DISINTEGRATING RAY, THE WRECKS DISAPPEAR.
THE GANGSTERS BELOW, AND THE POLICE, HAVE SEEN THE SPECTACLE . . . . . .
WHAT'S HAPPENED?
THE NEXT INSTANT, THERE IS A FLASH ABOVE THE SURROUNDED POLICE.
AND STARDUST WHISKS THEM INTO THE AIR . .
5

HE USES HIS SUSPENDING RAY, AND THE POLICE REMAIN FLOATING SAFELY OUT OF GUN-RANGE OF THE GANGSTERS . .
"SKULLFACE" RAVES
THIS MEDDLER MUST BE BUMPED OFF!
MAYBE HE'LL COME DOWN WHERE WE CAN GET A CRACK AT HIM!
A BRIGHT FLASH STARTLES THEM.
THE NEXT INSTANT, STARDUST APPEARS BEFORE THE GANG LEADER .
COME ON, MOBSTER! GET YOUR PUNKS TOGETHER! YOU'RE ALL GOING FOR A NICE, LONG STRETCH!
KILL HIM! QUICK!!
THE GANGSTERS TURN LOOSE THEIR MACHINE GUNS AGAINST STARDUST . .
FILL HIM WITH LEAD!
STARDUST'S MENTAL POWER PREVENTS THE THUG'S FROM FIRING AT HIM . .
I FORBID YOU TO FIRE!
THE MOB IS BEWILDERED . .

STARDUST MAKES HIS COMMAND MORE EMPHATIC . . .
I TOLD YOU TO GET YOUR GANG TOGETHER!


WHEN "SKULLFACE" REGAINS HIS SENSES, HE IS A MUCH CHANGED MAN . . . . .
ALL RIGHT, STARDUST!

HE PASSES THE WORD DOWN THE LINE FOR THE GANG TO MEET IN CENTRAL PARK.
IMMEDIATELY!

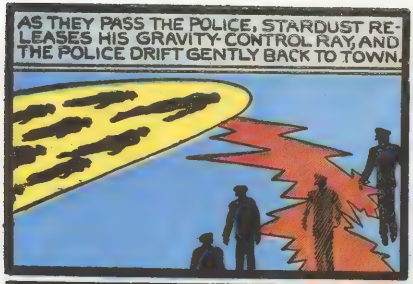
FROM ALL PARTS OF THE CITY, GANGSTERS BEGIN HEADING FOR THE PARK.
WE MUST OBEY THE BOSS!

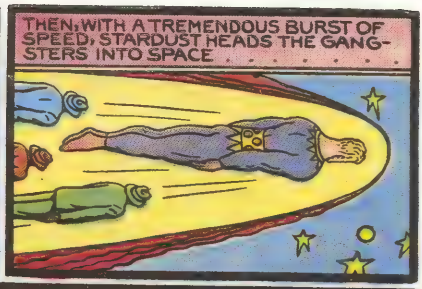
AT LAST THE ROUND-UP IS COMPLETED . . .
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

TAKE YOUR LAST LOOK AT THE CITY YOU TRIED TO ROB AND DESTROY!

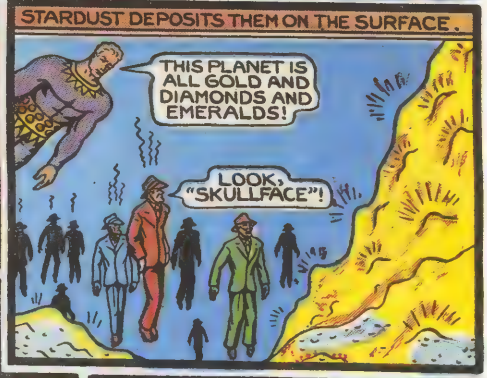
THEN STARDUST WHISKS THEM INTO THE AIR . . .

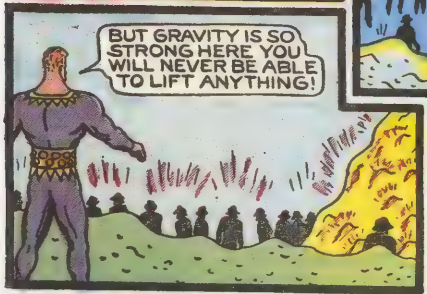
YOU ARE GOING TO A PLANET OF GREAT WEALTH!

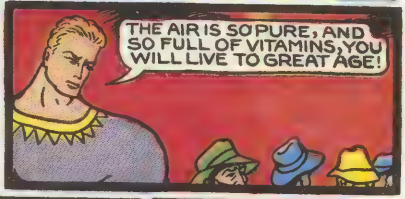

AS THEY PASS THE POLICE, STARDUST RELEASES HIS GRAVITY-CONTROL RAY, AND THE POLICE DRIFT GENTLY BACK TO TOWN.


THEN, WITH A TREMENDOUS BURST OF SPEED, STARDUST HEADS THE GANGSTERS INTO SPACE . . . . . .

THEY ARRIVE AT A STRANGE PLANET

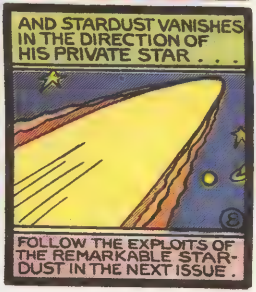

STARDUST DEPOSITS THEM ON THE SURFACE.
THIS PLANET IS ALL GOLD AND DIAMONDS AND EMERALDS!
LOOK, "SKULLFACE"!


BUT GRAVITY IS SO STRONG HERE YOU WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO LIFT ANYTHING!


THE AIR IS SO PURE, AND SO FULL OF VITAMINS, YOU WILL LIVE TO GREAT AGE!

FEAST YOUR EYES ON THE GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES WHILE YOU CAN, FOR NIGHT WILL SOON COME—A BLACK NIGHT THAT WILL LAST FOR CENTURIES!

NOW I LEAVE YOU TO YOURSELVES!


AND STARDUST VANISHES IN THE DIRECTION OF HIS PRIVATE STAR . . .
FOLLOW THE EXPLOITS OF THE REMARKABLE STARDUST IN THE NEXT ISSUE.

MYSTERY WOMAN OF THE JUNGLE

FANTOMAH

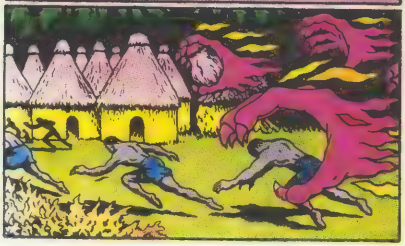
By BARCLAY FLAGG

FANTOMAH, THE MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN IN THE UNIVERSE, USES HER SUPERIOR POWERS TO PROTECT THE JUNGLE . .

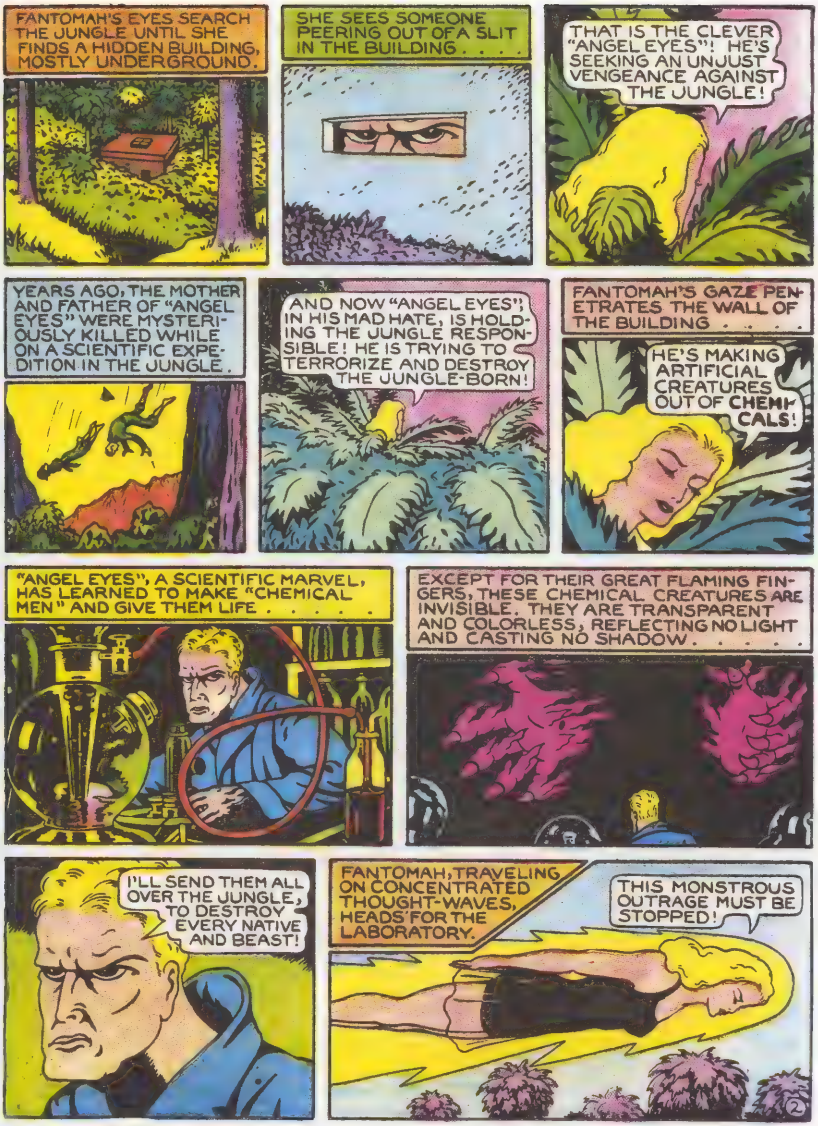
HER PHENOMENAL SIGHT ENABLES HER TO SEE A TERRIFYING CONDITION .

IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE JUNGLE, SHE SEES "FLAMING CLAWS", GIGANTIC AND MENACING . .

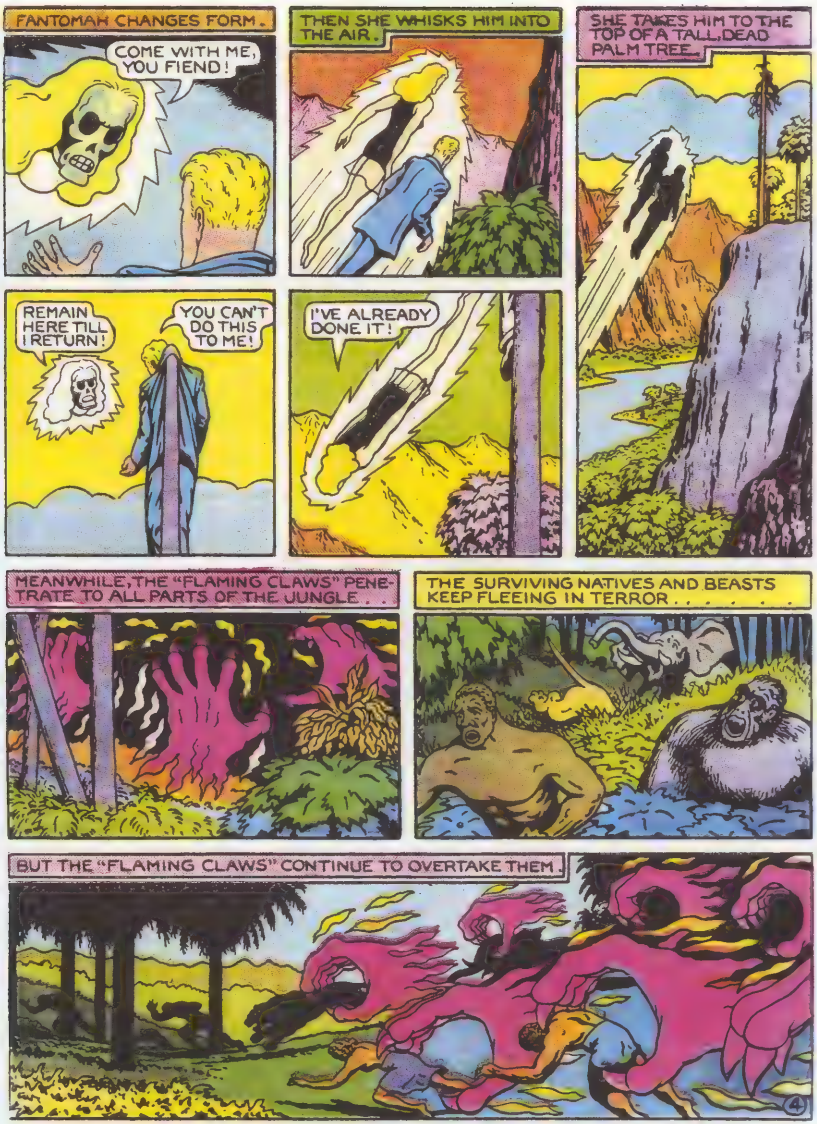
NATIVE VILLAGES ARE BEING WIPED OUT.

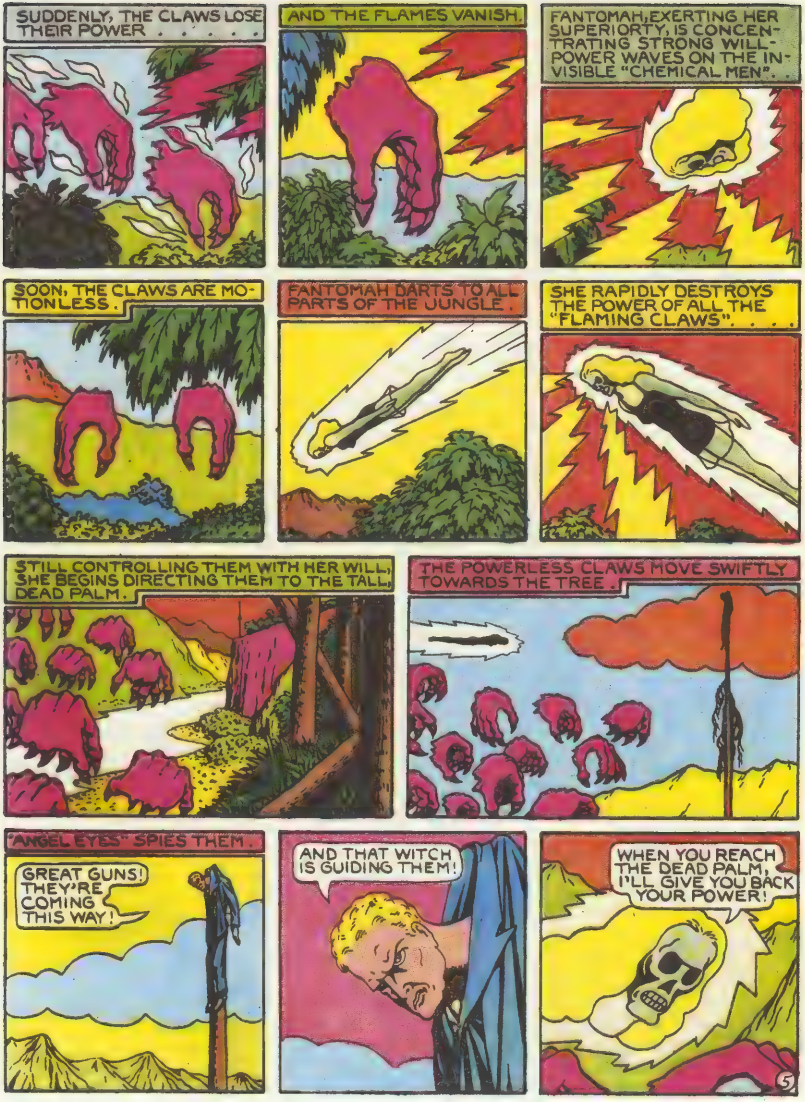


WILD ANIMALS MEET THE SAME FATE .


FANTOMAH'S EYES SEARCH THE JUNGLE UNTIL SHE FINDS A HIDDEN BUILDING, MOSTLY UNDERGROUND.
SHE SEES SOMEONE PEERING OUT OF A SLIT IN THE BUILDING . . . .
THAT IS THE CLEVER "ANGEL EYES"! HE'S SEEKING AN UNJUST VENGEANCE AGAINST THE JUNGLE!
YEARS AGO, THE MOTHER AND FATHER OF "ANGEL EYES" WERE MYSTERIOUSLY KILLED WHILE ON A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION IN THE JUNGLE.
AND NOW "ANGEL EYES", IN HIS MAD HATE, IS HOLDING THE JUNGLE RESPONSIBLE! HE IS TRYING TO TERRORIZE AND DESTROY THE JUNGLE-BORN!
FANTOMAH'S GAZE PENETRATES THE WALL OF THE BUILDING . . . .
HE'S MAKING ARTIFICIAL CREATURES OUT OF CHEMICALS!
"ANGEL EYES", A SCIENTIFIC MARVEL, HAS LEARNED TO MAKE "CHEMICAL MEN" AND GIVE THEM LIFE . . . . .
EXCEPT FOR THEIR GREAT FLAMING FINGERS, THESE CHEMICAL CREATURES ARE INVISIBLE. THEY ARE TRANSPARENT AND COLORLESS, REFLECTING NO LIGHT AND CASTING NO SHADOW . . . . .
I'LL SEND THEM ALL OVER THE JUNGLE, TO DESTROY EVERY NATIVE AND BEAST!
FANTOMAH, TRAVELING ON CONCENTRATED THOUGHT-WAVES, HEADS FOR THE LABORATORY.
THIS MONSTROUS OUTRAGE MUST BE STOPPED!

MEANWHILE, MOVING AT AMAZING SPEED, THE INVISIBLE "CHEMICAL MEN" SPREAD THROUGH THE JUNGLE . . . . . .
IN THEIR WAKE, THE "FLAMING CLAWS" LEAVE DEVASTATION AND DEATH . . .
I'LL GET MY REVENGE, IF I HAVE TO KILL EVERY JUNGLE CREATURE TO GET IT!
FANTOMAH SUDDENLY APPEARS BEFORE "ANGEL EYES".
YOUR PARENTS DIED BY ACCIDENT, WHEN A STORM BLEW THEM OVER A CLIFF!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU! THEY WERE MURDERED!
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME! AND YOU MUST STOP THESE TERRIBLE "CHEMICAL MEN"!
NEVER!
BESIDES, I NO LONGER HAVE CONTROL OVER THEM! THEY'LL GO ON AND ON, UNTIL THEY OVERRUN THE JUNGLE!
THEN I'LL STOP THEM MYSELF! AND YOU'LL PAY AN AWFUL PENALTY!
FIRST, I'LL DESTROY YOUR LABORATORY!
WITH A VIOLENT EXERTION OF HER WILL-POWER, FANTOMAH THROWS OUT DESTRUCTIVE THOUGHT-RAYS.
YOU'VE DESTROYED EVERYTHING!

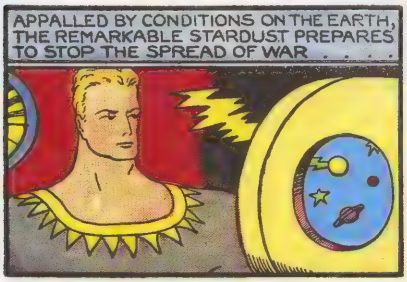

FANTOMAH CHANGES FORM.
COME WITH ME, YOU FIEND!
THEN SHE WHISKS HIM INTO THE AIR.
SHE TAKES HIM TO THE TOP OF A TALL, DEAD PALM TREE.
REMAIN HERE TILL I RETURN!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
I'VE ALREADY DONE IT!
MEANWHILE, THE "FLAMING CLAWS" PENETRATE TO ALL PARTS OF THE JUNGLE . .
THE SURVIVING NATIVES AND BEASTS KEEP FLEEING IN TERROR . . . . . .
BUT THE "FLAMING CLAWS" CONTINUE TO OVERTAKE THEM.
4

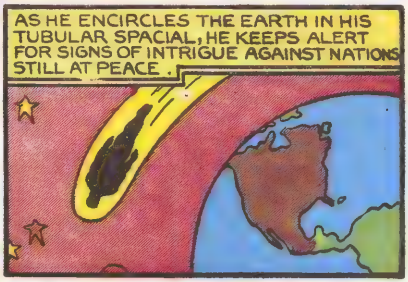

SUDDENLY, THE CLAWS LOSE THEIR POWER . . . . .
AND THE FLAMES VANISH.
FANTOMAH, EXERTING HER SUPERIORTY, IS CONCENTRATING STRONG WILL-POWER WAVES ON THE INVISIBLE "CHEMICAL MEN".
SOON, THE CLAWS ARE MOTIONLESS.
FANTOMAH DARTS TO ALL PARTS OF THE JUNGLE.
SHE RAPIDLY DESTROYS THE POWER OF ALL THE "FLAMING CLAWS". . . .
STILL CONTROLLING THEM WITH HER WILL, SHE BEGINS DIRECTING THEM TO THE TALL, DEAD PALM.
THE POWERLESS CLAWS MOVE SWIFTLY TOWARDS THE TREE.
"ANGEL EYES" SPIES THEM.
GREAT GUNS! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
AND THAT WITCH IS GUIDING THEM!
WHEN YOU REACH THE DEAD PALM, I'LL GIVE YOU BACK YOUR POWER!
5

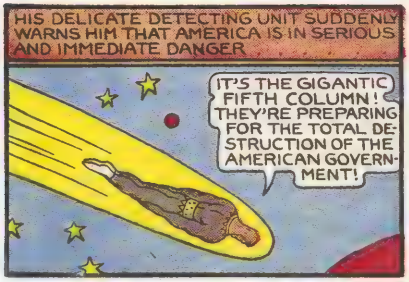
THE "CHEMICAL MEN" BEGIN SURROUNDING THE TREE . .
THEIR CLAWS FLAME AGAIN AND FLEX WITH POWER . .
GOOD LORD! THEY'RE COMING AFTER ME!
THE TREE SLOWLY RISES INTO THE AIR . . . . . .
OH-H-H! OH-H!
IT BEGINS FALLING .
HELP! HELP!
AS IT NEARS THE GROUND, THE "FLAMING CLAWS" GRAB FOR "ANGEL EYES" . .
FANTOMAH SUDDENLY TAKES AWAY THEIR POWER AGAIN .
DO NO MORE! THE COWARD HAS DIED OF FRIGHT!
I'LL DISPOSE OF HIM MYSELF!

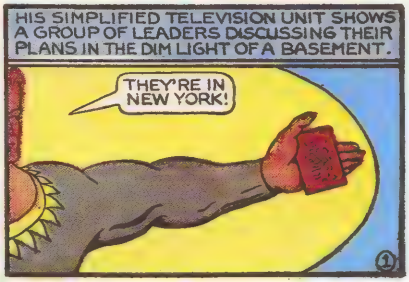
A WATERSPOUT SUDDENLY FORMS ABOVE THEM . . .
AND THE BODY OF "ANGEL EYES" RISES INTO THE VAPOR . . . .
THEN, UNDER FANTOMAH'S MAGIC, THE CLOUD DISAPPEARS.
FANTOMAH GUIDES THE "CHEMICAL MEN" TO THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF . . .
I'LL RETURN THEM TO THEIR NATURAL ELEMENTS!
BY USE OF HER ANALYTIC RAY, SHE SEPARATES THE CHEMICALS . . . . . .
ONE BY ONE, THE CHEMICAL INGREDIENTS FLOW DOWN THE SIDE OF THE CLIFF . . AND THE "FLAMING CLAWS" DISAPPEAR FOREVER . . .
FANTOMAH, BY TELEPATHY, NOTIFIES THE JUNGLE THE DANGER HAS PASSED . . .
AS JUNGLE LIFE BECOMES NORMAL, FANTOMAH GOES TO HER SANCTUM.
ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS ADVENTURE OF FANTOMAH IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE, IT'S A THRILLER!

THE SUPER WIZARD
STARDUST
BY FLETCHER HANKS
STARDUST, WHOSE VAST KNOWLEDGE OF INTERPLANETARY SCIENCE HAS MADE HIM THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN THAT EVER LIVED, DEVOTES HIS ABILITIES TO CRIME-BUSTING . .

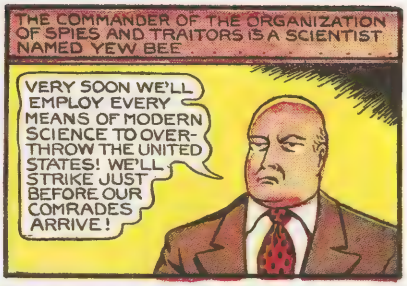

APPALLED BY CONDITIONS ON THE EARTH, THE REMARKABLE STARDUST PREPARES TO STOP THE SPREAD OF WAR . . .


AS HE ENCIRCLES THE EARTH IN HIS TUBULAR SPACIAL, HE KEEPS ALERT FOR SIGNS OF INTRIGUE AGAINST NATIONS STILL AT PEACE .


HIS DELICATE DETECTING UNIT SUDDENLY WARNS HIM THAT AMERICA IS IN SERIOUS AND IMMEDIATE DANGER . . . . . .
IT'S THE GIGANTIC FIFTH COLUMN! THEY'RE PREPARING FOR THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT!

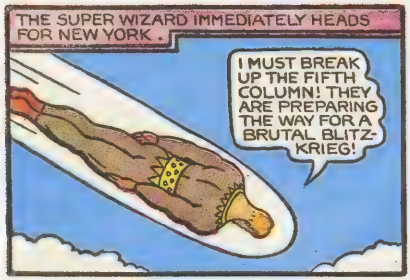

HIS SIMPLIFIED TELEVISION UNIT SHOWS A GROUP OF LEADERS DISCUSSING THEIR PLANS IN THE DIM LIGHT OF A BASEMENT.
THEY'RE IN NEW YORK!
1

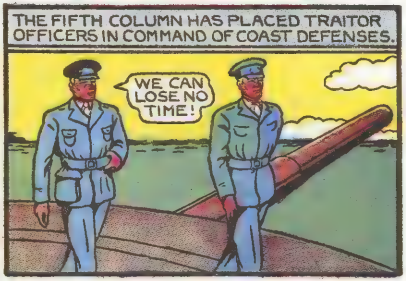
STARDUST TUNES THEM IN FOR A CLOSE-UP.
WE MUST END DEMOCRACY AND CIVILIZATION FOREVER!

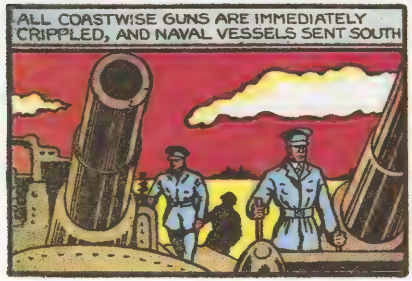

THE COMMANDER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF SPIES AND TRAITORS IS A SCIENTIST NAMED YEW BEE . . . . . .
VERY SOON WE'LL EMPLOY EVERY MEANS OF MODERN SCIENCE TO OVER-THROW THE UNITED STATES! WE'LL STRIKE JUST BEFORE OUR COMRADES ARRIVE!

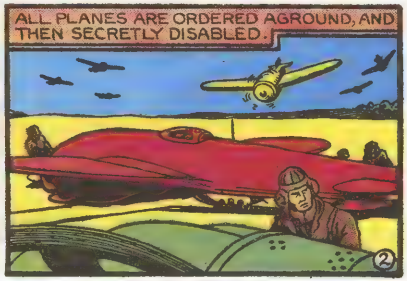
AS HE FINISHES HIS SPEECH, A SPY BRINGS YEW A SECRET MESSAGE IN CODE . . .
IT IS ALREADY TIME TO STRIKE!

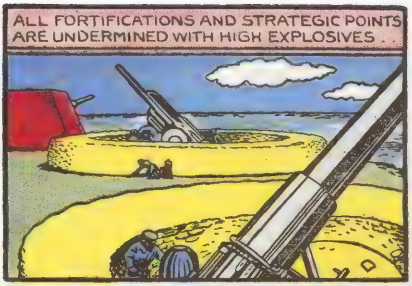
STARDUST TUNES IN EUROPE AND FINDS A RUTHLESS RULER GIVING SECRET MILITARY COMMANDS . . . . . .


THE SUPER WIZARD IMMEDIATELY HEADS FOR NEW YORK .
I MUST BREAK UP THE FIFTH COLUMN! THEY ARE PREPARING THE WAY FOR A BRUTAL BLITZ-KRIEG!

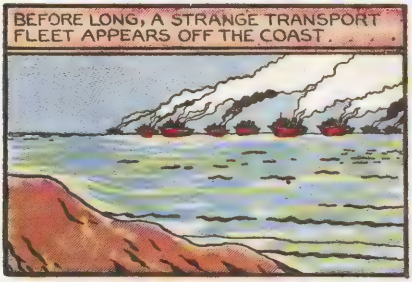

THE FIFTH COLUMN HAS PLACED TRAITOR OFFICERS IN COMMAND OF COAST DEFENSES.
WE CAN LOSE NO TIME!


ALL COASTWISE GUNS ARE IMMEDIATELY CRIPPLED, AND NAVAL VESSELS SENT SOUTH

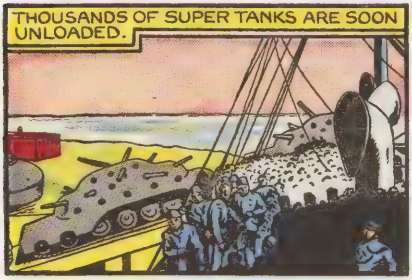

ALL PLANES ARE ORDERED AGROUND, AND THEN SECRETLY DISABLED.
2

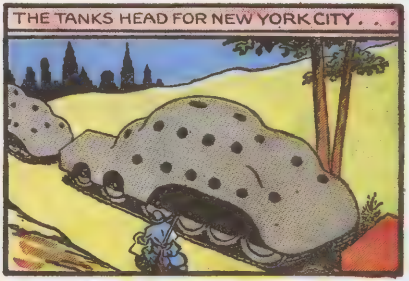

ALL FORTIFICATIONS AND STRATEGIC POINTS ARE UNDERMINED WITH HIGH EXPLOSIVES . .

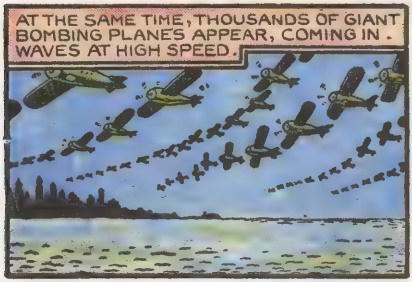
THE FIFTH COLUMN LEADERS THEN HIDE IN THEIR SECRET BOMB-PROOF ROOM . .
WE'RE NOW READY! ALL LINES OF COMMUNICATION ARE AT OUR MERCY!


BEFORE LONG, A STRANGE TRANSPORT FLEET APPEARS OFF THE COAST . . .

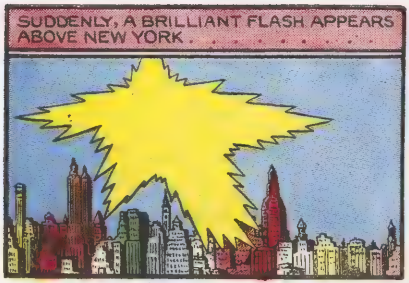
THE SHIPS QUIETLY CRUISE INTO PORT . .

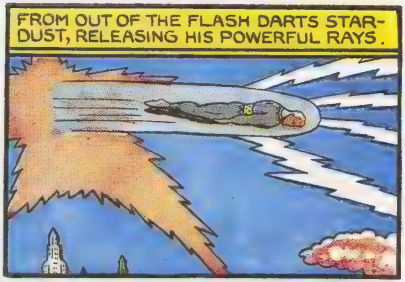

THOUSANDS OF SUPER TANKS ARE SOON UNLOADED.

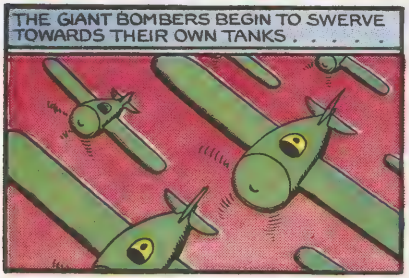

THE TANKS HEAD FOR NEW YORK CITY . . .

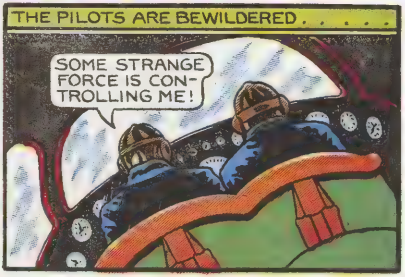

AT THE SAME TIME, THOUSANDS OF GIANT BOMBING PLANES APPEAR, COMING IN . WAVES AT HIGH SPEED.

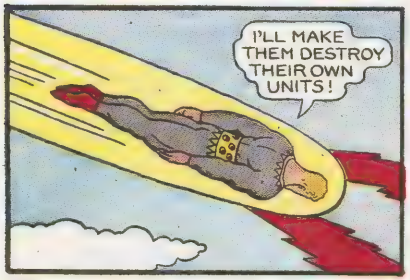
THE FIFTH COLUMN LEADERS GLOAT . .
THEY ARE THE NEW BOMBERS, ESPECIALLY BUILT TO RUIN NEW YORK!
3

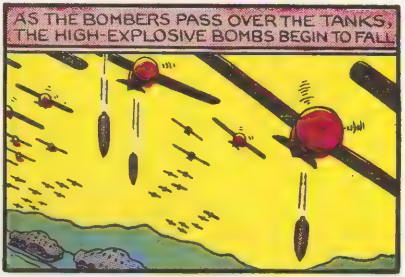

SUDDENLY, A BRILLIANT FLASH APPEARS ABOVE NEW YORK . . . . . .

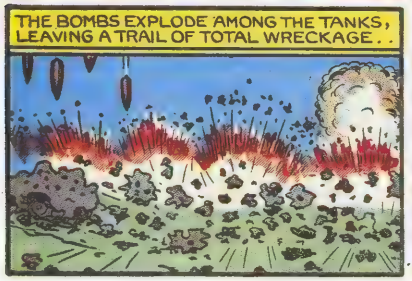

FROM OUT OF THE FLASH DARTS STAR-DUST, RELEASING HIS POWERFUL RAYS .

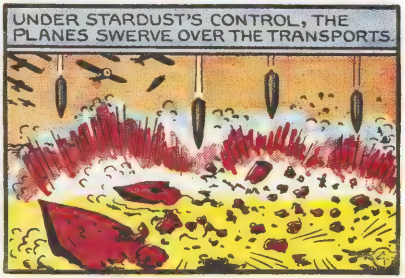

THE GIANT BOMBERS BEGIN TO SWERVE TOWARDS THEIR OWN TANKS . . . . .

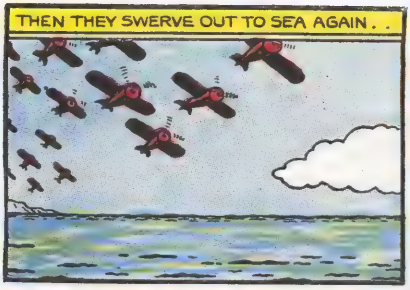

THE PILOTS ARE BEWILDERED . . . . .
SOME STRANGE FORCE IS CON-TROLLING ME!

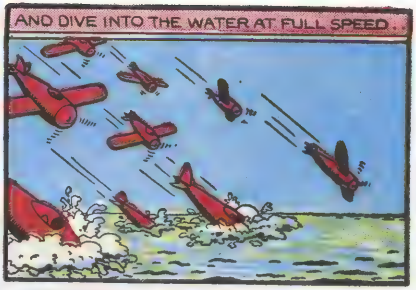

I'LL MAKE THEM DESTROY THEIR OWN UNITS!

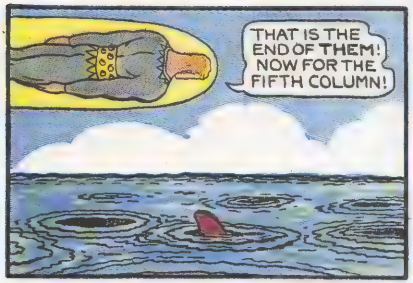

AS THE BOMBERS PASS OVER THE TANKS, THE HIGH-EXPLOSIVE BOMBS BEGIN TO FALL

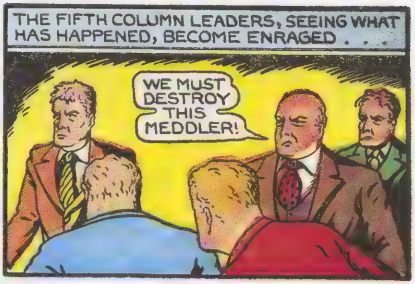

THE BOMBS EXPLODE AMONG THE TANKS, LEAVING A TRAIL OF TOTAL WRECKAGE . .

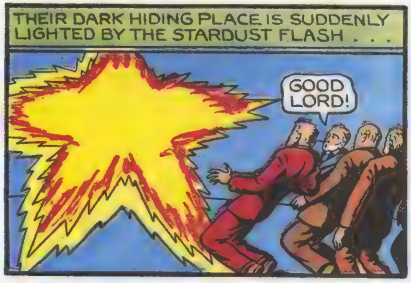

UNDER STARDUST'S CONTROL, THE PLANES SWERVE OVER THE TRANSPORTS.

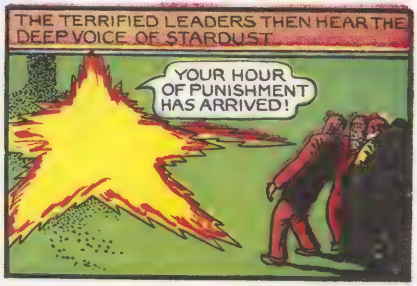

THEN THEY SWERVE OUT TO SEA AGAIN . .

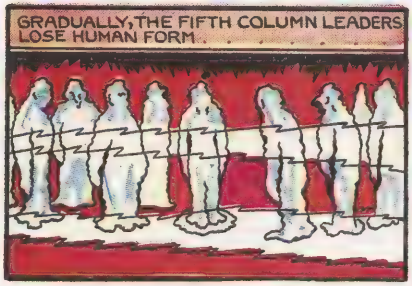

AND DIVE INTO THE WATER AT FULL SPEED . .

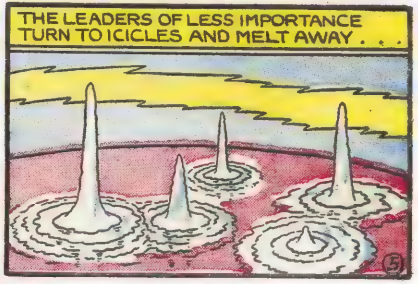

THAT IS THE END OF THEM! NOW FOR THE FIFTH COLUMN!

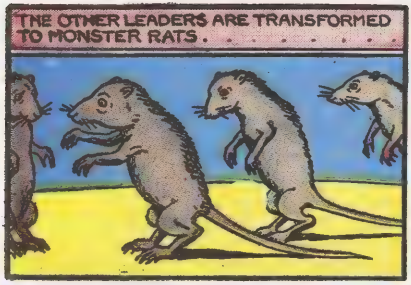

THE FIFTH COLUMN LEADERS, SEEING WHAT HAS HAPPENED, BECOME ENRAGED . . .
WE MUST DESTROY THIS MEDDLER!

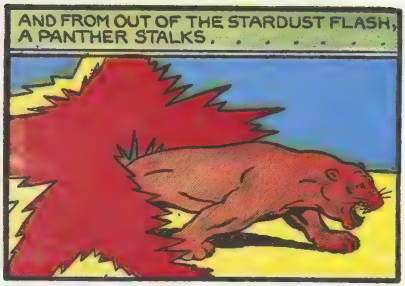

THEIR DARK HIDING PLACE IS SUDDENLY LIGHTED BY THE STARDUST FLASH . . .
GOOD LORD!


THE TERRIFIED LEADERS THEN HEAR THE DEEP VOICE OF STARDUST
YOUR HOUR OF PUNISHMENT HAS ARRIVED!

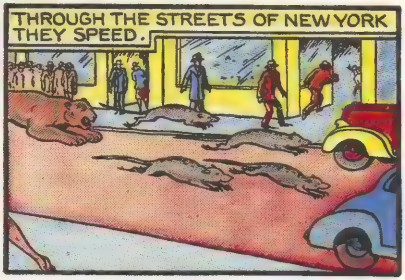

GRADUALLY, THE FIFTH COLUMN LEADERS LOSE HUMAN FORM . . . . . .

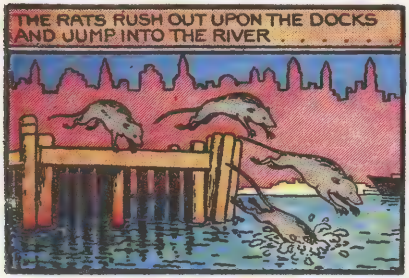

THE LEADERS OF LESS IMPORTANCE TURN TO ICICLES AND MELT AWAY . . .
5

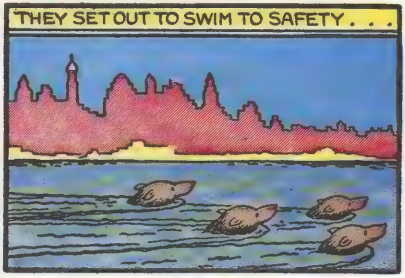

THE OTHER LEADERS ARE TRANSFORMED TO MONSTER RATS . . . . . .

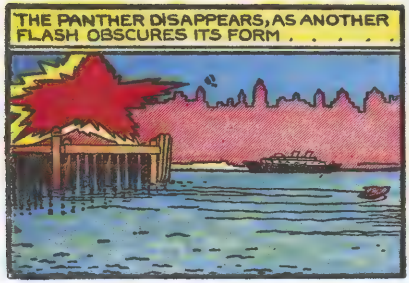

AND FROM OUT OF THE STARDUST FLASH, A PANTHER STALKS . . . . . .

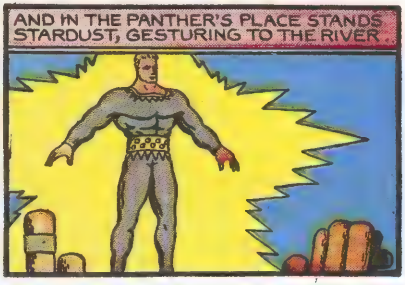
THE RATS FLEE IN TERROR, WITH THE PANTHER IN PURSUIT.

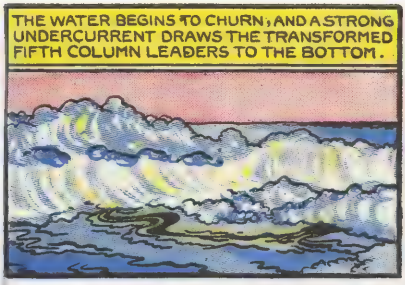

THROUGH THE STREETS OF NEW YORK THEY SPEED.

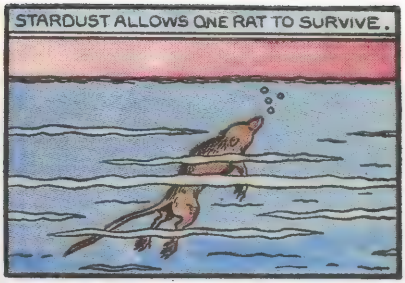

THE RATS RUSH OUT UPON THE DOCKS AND JUMP INTO THE RIVER . . . . . .

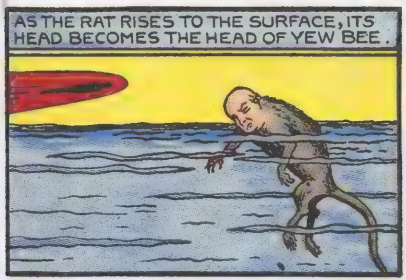

THEY SET OUT TO SWIM TO SAFETY . . .

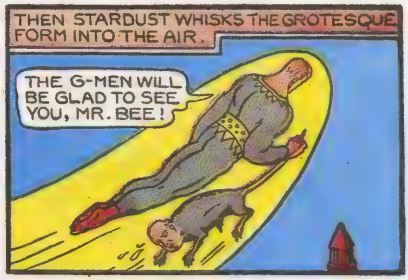

THE PANTHER DISAPPEARS, AS ANOTHER FLASH OBSCURES ITS FORM . . . . .

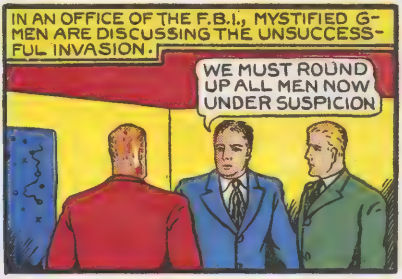

AND IN THE PANTHER'S PLACE STANDS STARDUST, GESTURING TO THE RIVER.

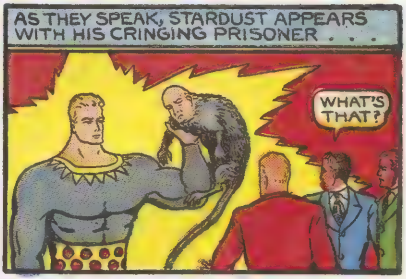

THE WATER BEGINS TO CHURN, AND A STRONG UNDERCURRENT DRAWS THE TRANSFORMED FIFTH COLUMN LEADERS TO THE BOTTOM.

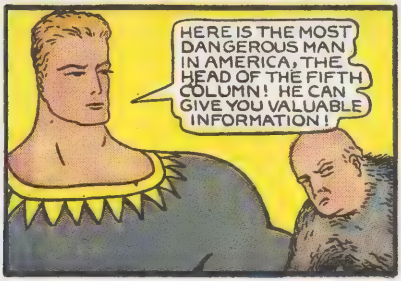

STARDUST ALLOWS ONE RAT TO SURVIVE.

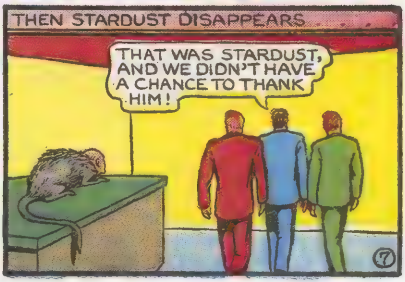

AS THE RAT RISES TO THE SURFACE, ITS HEAD BECOMES THE HEAD OF YEW BEE.

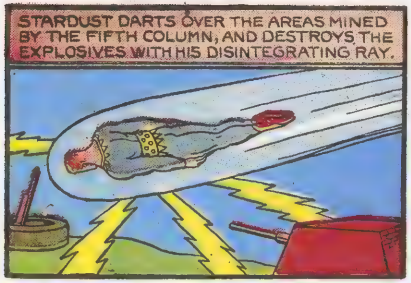

THEN STARDUST WHISKS THE GROTESQUE FORM INTO THE AIR.
THE G-MEN WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU, MR. BEE!

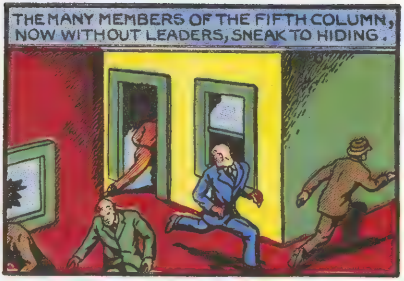

IN AN OFFICE OF THE F.B.I., MYSTIFIED G-MEN ARE DISCUSSING THE UNSUCCESSFUL INVASION.
WE MUST ROUND UP ALL MEN NOW UNDER SUSPICION


AS THEY SPEAK, STARDUST APPEARS WITH HIS CRINGING PRISONER . . .
WHAT'S THAT?


HERE IS THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA, THE HEAD OF THE FIFTH COLUMN! HE CAN GIVE YOU VALUABLE INFORMATION!

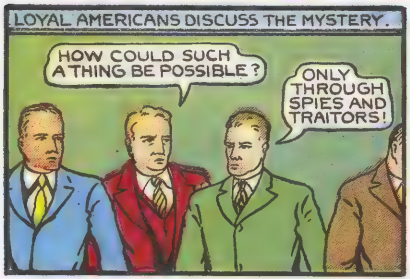

THEN STARDUST DISAPPEARS . . .
THAT WAS STARDUST, AND WE DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE TO THANK HIM!

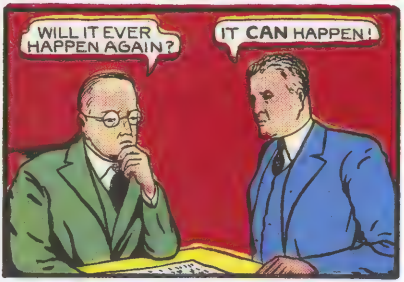

STARDUST DARTS OVER THE AREAS MINED BY THE FIFTH COLUMN, AND DESTROYS THE EXPLOSIVES WITH HIS DISINTEGRATING RAY.

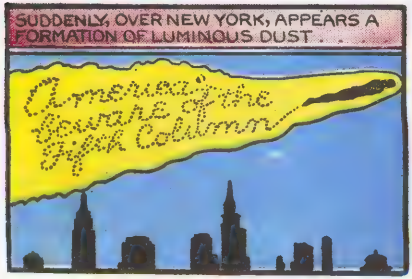

THE MANY MEMBERS OF THE FIFTH COLUMN, NOW WITHOUT LEADERS, SNEAK TO HIDING.

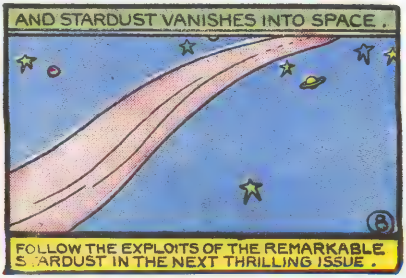
THE G-MEN HUNT THEM DOWN RELENTLESSLY
IF THEY DON'T STOP, SHOOT!

NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO FURNISH DETAILS OF THE ATTEMPTED INVASION . . . .
AMERICA INVADED
BIG ARM DESTRO
SURPRISE ATTACK REPULSED
THOUSANDS OF TANKS AND BOMBING PLANES UNSUCCESSFUL IN AN EFFORT TO.....
F.B.I. ON MANHUNT
WAR WITHOUT WARNING COMES TO U.S.A.
U.S. NOW RUSHING DEFEN
BLITZ-KRIEG


LOYAL AMERICANS DISCUSS THE MYSTERY.
HOW COULD SUCH A THING BE POSSIBLE?
ONLY THROUGH SPIES AND TRAITORS!


WILL IT EVER HAPPEN AGAIN?
IT CAN HAPPEN!


SUDDENLY, OVER NEW YORK, APPEARS A FORMATION OF LUMINOUS DUST . . .
America's Fourth Fifth Column

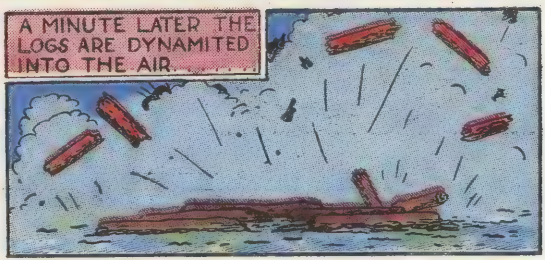

AND STARDUST VANISHES INTO SPACE.
FOLLOW THE EXPLOITS OF THE REMARKABLE S ARDUST IN THE NEXT THRILLING ISSUE.

BIG RED McLANE
KING OF THE NORTHWOODS

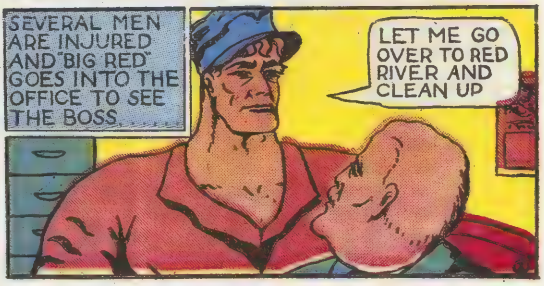
"BIG RED" IS A LOYAL LUMBERJACK FOR THE GREAT BEND LUMBER COMPANY . . . . . .

WHILE WORKING ON A LOG JAM, HE SEES MEN FROM A RIVAL CAMP SCURRYING INTO THE WOODS. . . . . .

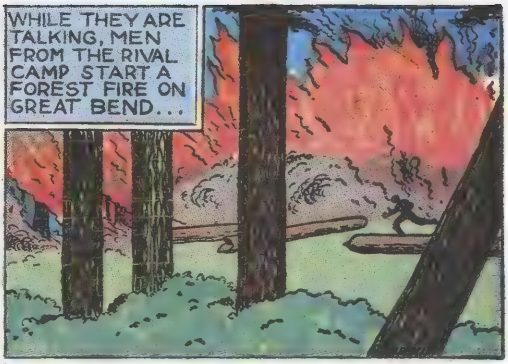
A MINUTE LATER THE LOGS ARE DYNAMITED INTO THE AIR. . . . . .

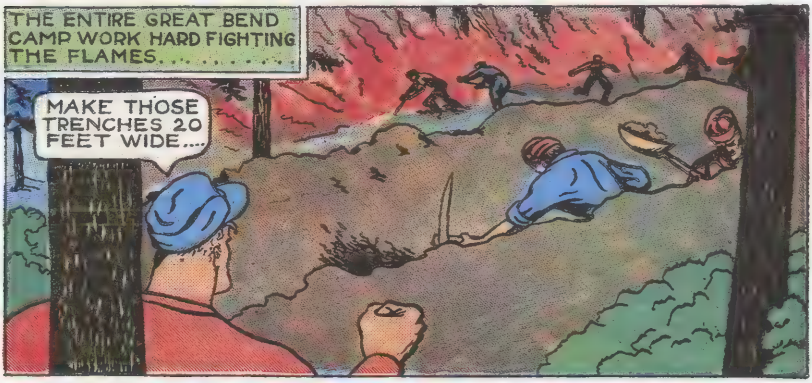


SEVERAL MEN ARE INJURED AND "BIG RED" GOES INTO THE OFFICE TO SEE THE BOSS. . . . . .

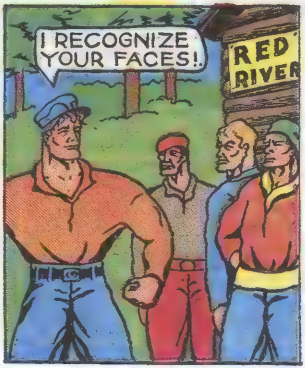


THAT'S NOT MY WAY OF DOING THINGS, "RED."


WHILE THEY ARE TALKING, MEN FROM THE RIVAL CAMP START A FOREST FIRE ON GREAT BEND...


THE ENTIRE GREAT BEND CAMP WORK HARD FIGHTING THE FLAMES.....
MAKE THOSE TRENCHES 20 FEET WIDE....

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THOSE BIRDS MYSELF.....
RED RIVER

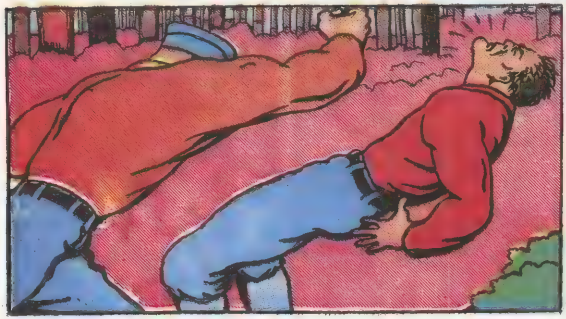

I RECOGNIZE YOUR FACES!
RED RIVER

LET'S GANG UP ON HIM!

THIS IS WHY I'M HERE!

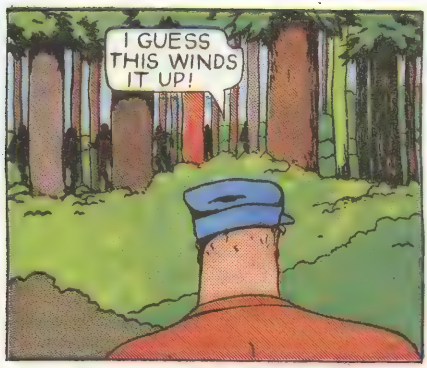
YOU RED RIVER RATS, I'LL FIX YOU!

COME ON! LET'S KILL HIM!
TRY AND DO IT, YOU RATS!



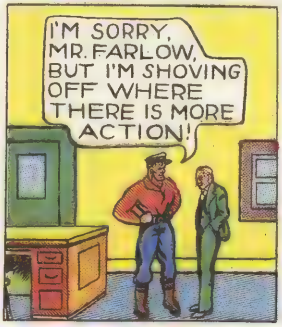
GET THE GUNS!

BIG RED USES HIS FEET WHEN THEY PULL THE GUNS ON HIM.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
I'LL PUT YOU ALL WHERE YOU BELONG!
THE BIG HEAVYWEIGHT FROM THE RED RIVER GANG COMES OUT INTO THE OPEN.....
I'LL KNOCK YOU STIFF, YOU BIG PALOOKA!
STEP UP AND GET IT!
HOW DID YOU LIKE IT?

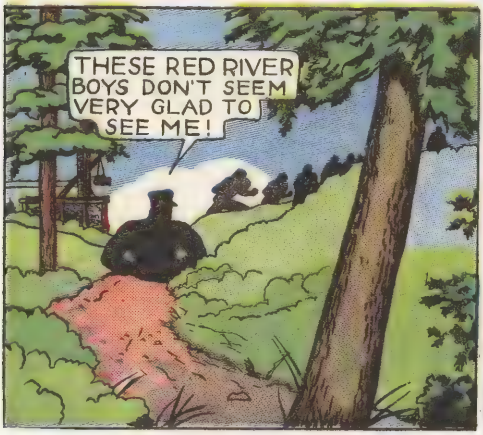

I GUESS THIS WINDS IT UP!

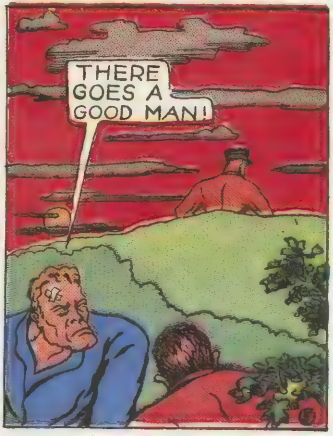
I BELIEVE YOU'LL HAVE NO MORE TROUBLE WITH RED RIVER, MR. FARLOW!

YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, RED! YOU HAVE A LIFETIME JOB HERE IF YOU WANT IT!


I'M SORRY, MR. FARLOW, BUT I'M SHOVING OFF WHERE THERE IS MORE ACTION!

I'LL PASS BY THE RED RIVER CAMP AND SAY SO-LONG!

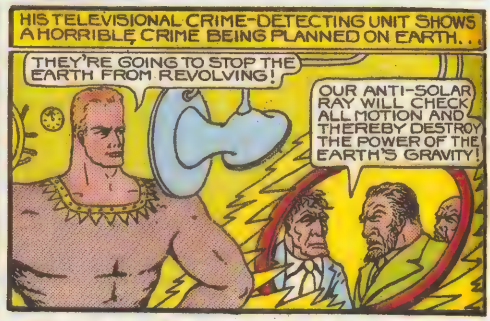

THESE RED RIVER BOYS DON'T SEEM VERY GLAD TO SEE ME!

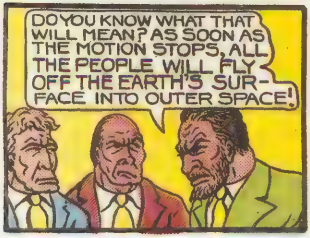

THERE GOES A GOOD MAN!

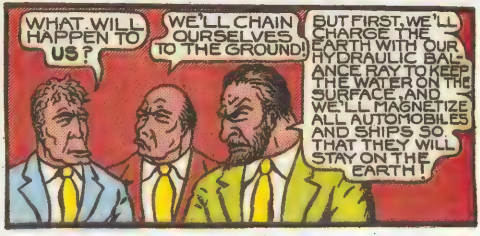
THE SUPER WIZARD STARDUST

By FLETCHER HANKS

STARDUST, THE SCIENTIFIC MARVEL WHOSE VAST KNOWLEDGE OF ALL PLANETS HAS MADE HIM THE MOST REMARKABLE PERSON EVER KNOWN, IS DEVOTING HIS ABILITIES TO CRIME-BUSTING. . . . . .

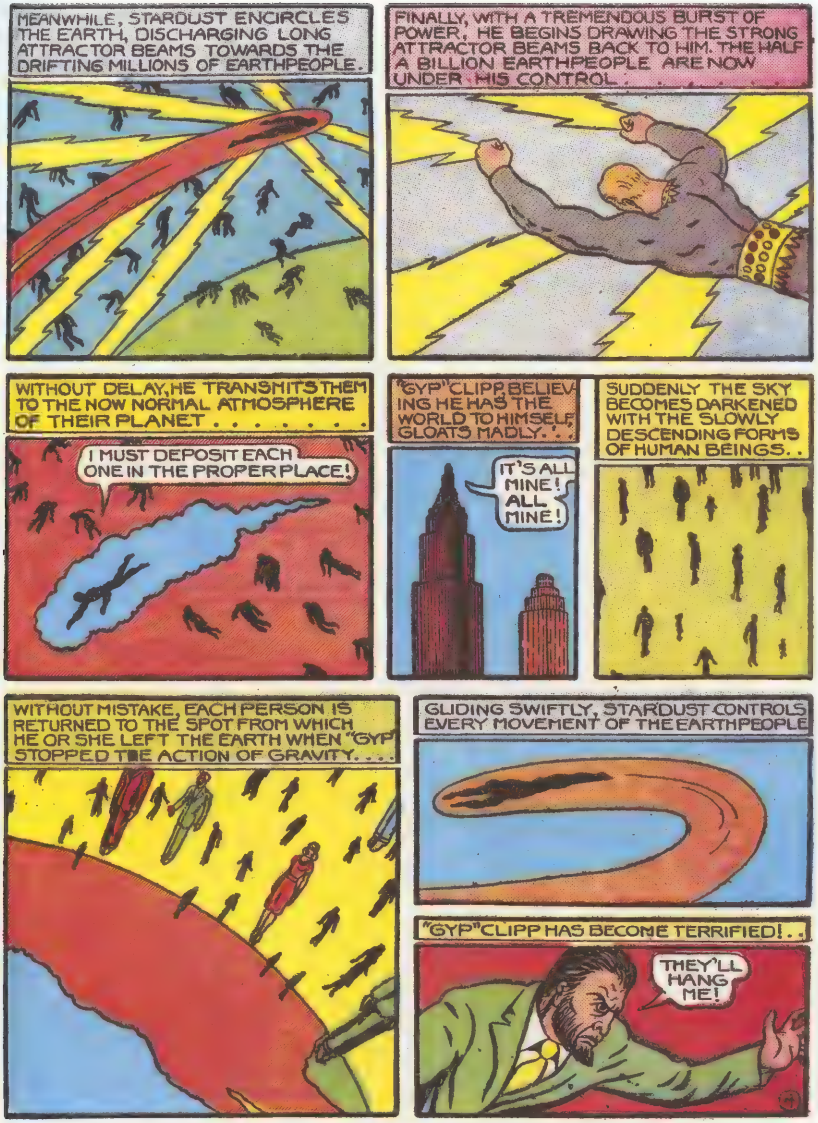


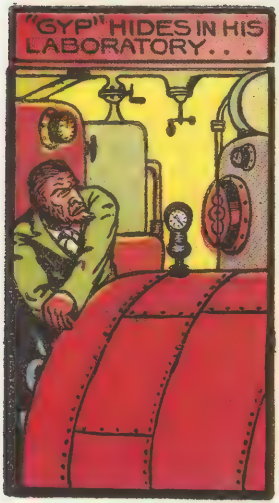


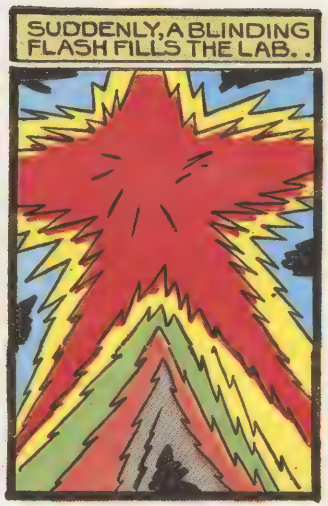


WHEN EVERYBODY HAS DISAPPEARED INTO SPACE, WE'LL REVERSE OUR ANTI-SOLAR RAY AND RESTORE THE EARTH'S MOTION AND IT'S GRAVITY! THEN WE CAN HAVE THE WHOLE EARTH AND ALL IT'S WEALTH FOR OURSELVES!
THAT'S THE DANGEROUS "GYP" CLIPP GANG! PREPARING TO MURDER OVER HALF A BILLION PEOPLE!
I'LL ATTEND TO THEM!
COME ON, YOU MUGS! GET READY! WE'RE GOING TO RELEASE OUR ANTI-SOLAR RAY!
THE RAY IS RELEASED, AND THE EARTH BEGINS TO TURN MORE SLOWLY.
IT FINALLY LOSES ALL ITS MOTION . . . . . .
AS IT COMES TO A STOP AND GRAVITY IS DESTROYED, PEOPLE BEGIN TO RISE FROM THE SURFACE AND PLUNGE HELPLESSLY INTO SPACE . . . . . .
2

MEANWHILE, THE BRILLIANT FORM OF STARDUST DARTS ACROSS THE HEAVENS. THE SUPER WIZARD IS TRAVELING ON HIGHLY ACCELERATED LIGHT WAVES IN A TUBULAR SPACIAL.
EVERYBODY SHOULD BE OFF THE EARTH BY THIS TIME!
WE SHOULD HAVE SPARED A FEW, — TO MAKE SLAVES OF THEM!
PERHAPS A FEW ARE LEFT — WE CAN CAPTURE THEM!
STARDUST'S EXTRA SIGHT ENABLES HIM TO SEE THE MILLIONS OF EARTH PEOPLE DRIFTING IN SPACE, UNCONSCIOUS AND GASPING . . . . . .
HE SEES THE "GYP" CLIPP GANG GETTING READY TO REVERSE THE ANTI-SOLAR RAY AND MAKE THE EARTH AGAIN NORMAL . . . . . .
WE'LL SOON HAVE IT ALL FOR OURSELVES, "GYP"!
AS STARDUST GLIDES THROUGH SPACE, HE FOCUSES HIS RADIOPHONIC THOUGHT-RECORDING RAY ON "GYP" CLIPP. . . . . .
WHY SHOULD I SHARE ALL THIS WEALTH WITH THESE MUGS?
BANG! BANG!
NOW I'LL HAVE IT ALL TO MYSELF!
"GYP" REVERSES THE ANTI-SOLAR RAY AND THE EARTH BEGINS TO REVOLVE AGAIN. .
3

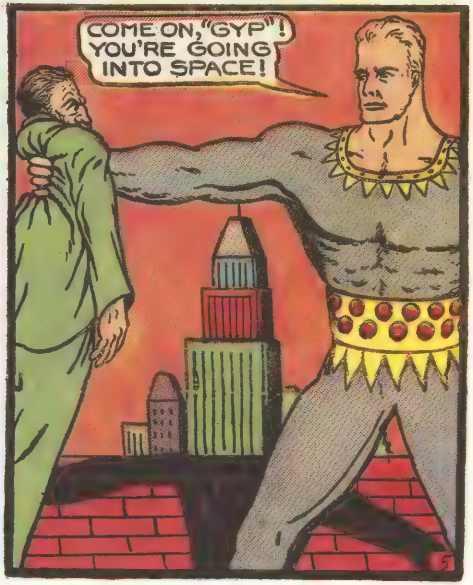

MEANWHILE, STARDUST ENCIRCLES THE EARTH, DISCHARGING LONG ATTRACTOR BEAMS TOWARDS THE DRIFTING MILLIONS OF EARTHPEOPLE.
FINALLY, WITH A TREMENDOUS BURST OF POWER, HE BEGINS DRAWING THE STRONG ATTRACTOR BEAMS BACK TO HIM. THE HALF A BILLION EARTHPEOPLE ARE NOW UNDER HIS CONTROL . . . . . .
WITHOUT DELAY, HE TRANSMITS THEM TO THE NOW NORMAL ATMOSPHERE OF THEIR PLANET . . . . . .
I MUST DEPOSIT EACH ONE IN THE PROPER PLACE!
"GYP" CLIPP, BELIEVING HE HAS THE WORLD TO HIMSELF, GLOATS MADLY. . .
IT'S ALL MINE! ALL MINE!
SUDDENLY THE SKY BECOMES DARKENED WITH THE SLOWLY DESCENDING FORMS OF HUMAN BEINGS. .
WITHOUT MISTAKE, EACH PERSON IS RETURNED TO THE SPOT FROM WHICH HE OR SHE LEFT THE EARTH WHEN "GYP" STOPPED THE ACTION OF GRAVITY. . . .
GLIDING SWIFTLY, STARDUST CONTROLS EVERY MOVEMENT OF THE EARTHPEOPLE
"GYP" CLIPP HAS BECOME TERRIFIED! . .
THEY'LL HANG ME!

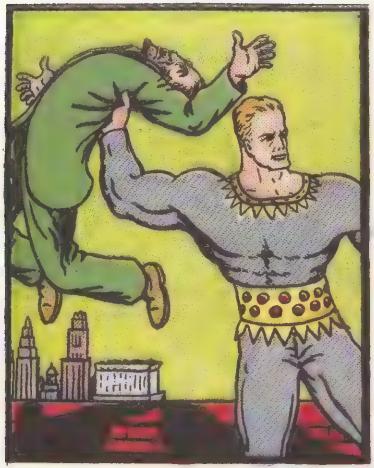

"GYP" HIDES IN HIS LABORATORY. . .


SUDDENLY, A BLINDING FLASH FILLS THE LAB. .

AND "GYP'S" EQUIPMENT IS ENTIRELY DESTROYED BY A FUSING RAY. .
BANG!

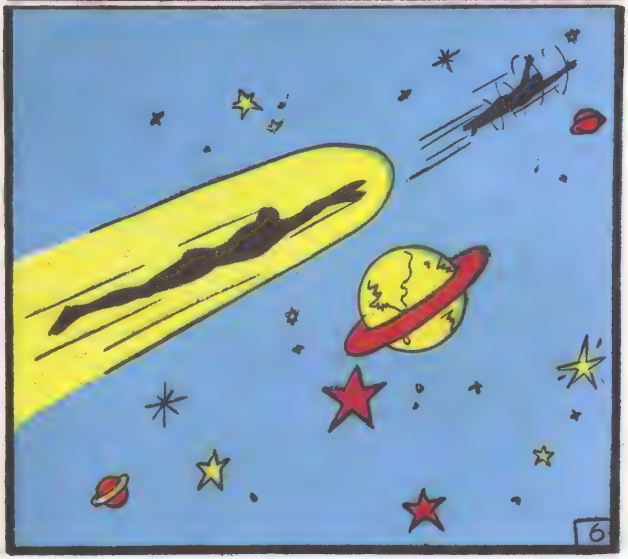
FROM OUT OF THE FLASH STEPS STARDUST.
OH, MY LORD!

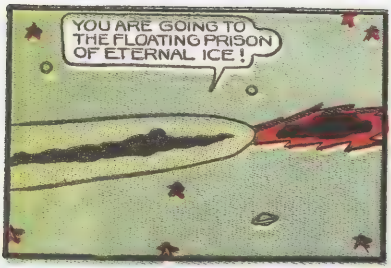

COME ON, "GYP"! YOU'RE GOING INTO SPACE!



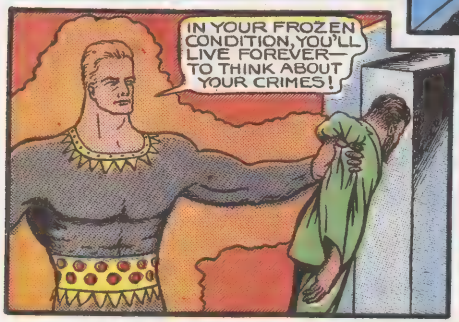
"GYP" WHIRLS INTO OUTER SPACE...

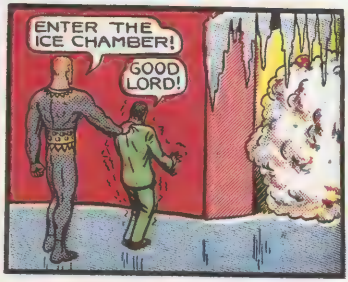
AND STARDUST FOLLOWS, READY TO PROPEL HIM TO THE REALM OF CONSTANT TWILIGHT..

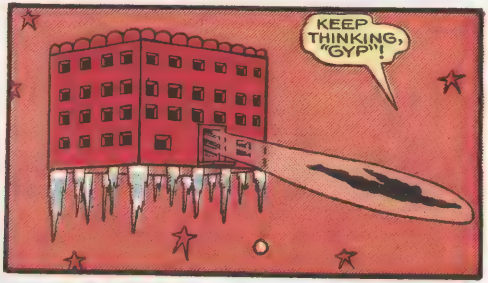


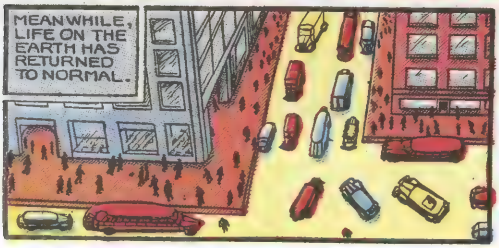

YOU ARE GOING TO THE FLOATING PRISON OF ETERNAL ICE!

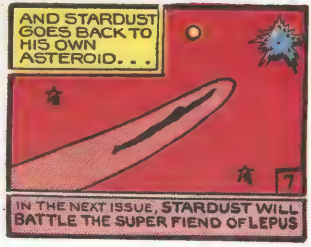
YOU SHALL BECOME A FROZEN SPACITE, ABLE TO SEE AND THINK, BUT ALWAYS MOTIONLESS!


IN YOUR FROZEN CONDITION, YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER— TO THINK ABOUT YOUR CRIMES!


ENTER THE ICE CHAMBER!
GOOD LORD!


KEEP THINKING, "GYP"!


MEANWHILE, LIFE ON THE EARTH HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL.


AND STARDUST GOES BACK TO HIS OWN ASTEROID. . .
7
IN THE NEXT ISSUE, STARDUST WILL BATTLE THE SUPER FIEND OF LEPUS

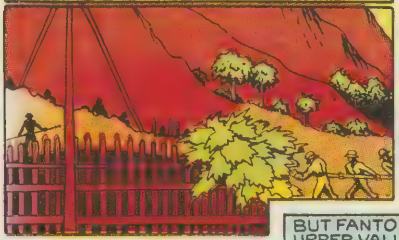
MYSTERY WOMAN OF THE JUNGLE
FANTOMAH
By BARCLAY FLAGG
FANTOMAH, THE MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN EVER KNOWN, HAS SUCH KEEN INSIGHT THAT SHE CAN SEE ALL THAT HAPPENS IN CONNECTION WITH THE JUNGLE. SHE USES HER SUPERIOR ABILITIES AND WIZARDRY TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF JUNGLE CREATURES . .
IN A BEAUTIFUL JUNGLE VALLEY, KNOWN ONLY TO THE NATIVES, LIVE THOUSANDS OF GIGANTIC ROYAL PANTHERS, THE LARGEST OF THE CAT FAMILY . . .
A PLANE FLIES OVER LOW . .
THE LONE PILOT IS THE FIRST WHITE MAN EVER TO SEE THE POWERFUL ANIMALS . .
WHAT HUGE BRUTES THEY ARE!
I CAN USE THEM IN MY PLAN TO WRECK CIVILIZATION!

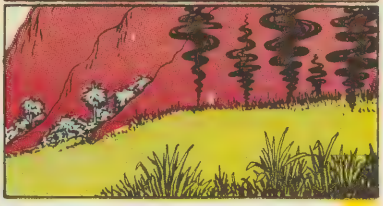
THE ALERT FANTOMAH, TRANSPORTING HERSELF ON CONCENTRATED THOUGHT WAVES, FOLLOWS HIM.
HE'S THE VERY WEALTHY MARK LORD, WHO MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED FROM CIVILIZATION A FEW MONTHS AGO!
MARK LORD HAS BECOME A VERY DANGEROUS MADMAN! I MUST WATCH HIM CLOSELY!
FANTOMAH READS HIS THOUGHTS . . . . . .
CIVILIZATION IS A FAILURE! WE MUST RETURN TO PRIMITIVE LIVING! I'LL SPEND MY GREAT FORTUNE TO MAKE NEW YORK A LOST CITY!
MARK LORD RETURNS TO HIS SECRET HOME.
I MUST START AT ONCE!
A FEW DAYS LATER, HIS PRIVATE TRANSPORTS STEAM INTO THE JUNGLE COAST, NEAR THE VALLEY WHERE THE GREAT ROYAL PANTHERS ROAM
SOON, AN ARMY OF TRAINED TRAPPERS LAND, AND HEAD FOR THE VALLEY . . . . .
THEY ARE FULLY EQUIPPED TO CAPTURE THE MIGHTY PANTHERS AND PUT THEM ABOARD THE TRANSPORTS.
MEANWHILE, IN A SECRET SPOT NEAR NEW YORK, MARK LORD HAS A FLEET OF BOMBING PLANES ALL READY FOR AN ATTACK ON THE CITY . . . . . .
THEIR HIGH-EXPLOSIVE BOMBS ARE THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE EVER MADE.

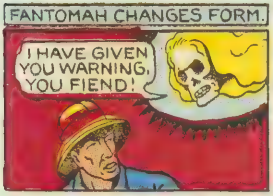
I'LL TERRORIZE THE CITY AND THEN OVER-RUN IT WITH THE POWERFUL ROYAL PANTHERS! I'LL MAKE NEW YORK THE WILDEST SPOT IN THE WORLD!

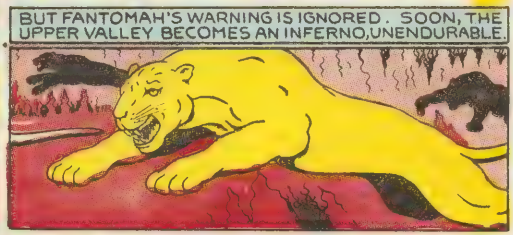
THE TRAPPERS MOVE INTO THE VALLEY OF PANTHERS.

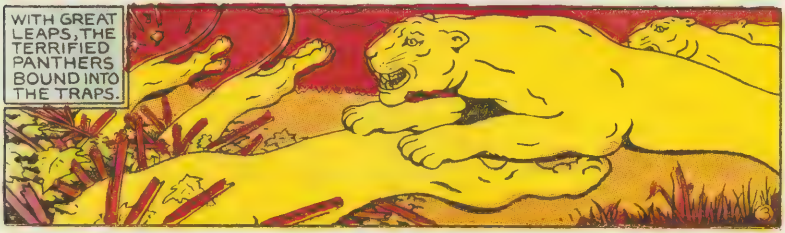
FANTOMAH APPEARS BEFORE THE MADMAN . .
YOU MUST STOP THIS! THESE JUNGLE ANIMALS BELONG HERE!
ATTEND TO YOUR OWN BUSINESS!


MARK LORD GIVES HIS ORDERS, AND THE HUGE TRAPS ARE SET UP AT THE LOW END OF THE VALLEY . . . . . .


THEN, AT THE OTHER END AND ON THE SIDES, RINGS OF SMOKE BEGIN TO RISE FROM THE JUNGLE GRASS . . .

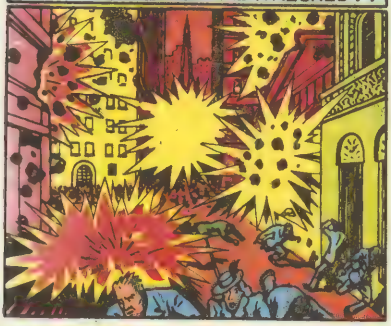

FANTOMAH CHANGES FORM.
I HAVE GIVEN YOU WARNING, YOU FIEND!


BUT FANTOMAH'S WARNING IS IGNORED. SOON, THE UPPER VALLEY BECOMES AN INFERNO, UNENDURABLE.


WITH GREAT LEAPS, THE TERRIFIED PANTHERS BOUND INTO THE TRAPS.

IN A SHORT TIME, ALL THE PANTHERS ARE TRAPPED, AND THE SPREADING FIRE IS CHECKED WITH A FIRE TRENCH . . . .
THEN THE THOUSANDS OF ANIMALS ARE CAGED AND HOISTED TO CABLES
BY THESE CABLES, THEY ARE LOWERED TO THE SHIPS . .
THE SAVAGE BEASTS AT LAST ARE ALL STOWED ABOARD .
AND THE SHIPS SAIL FOR NEW YORK .
I MUST CONTACT MY BOMBING SQUAD!
AS THE TRANSPORT FLEET NEARS NEW YORK, THE BOMBING PLANES ARE FLOWN INTO FORMATION
SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, THE CITY IS ATTACKED . . . .
4

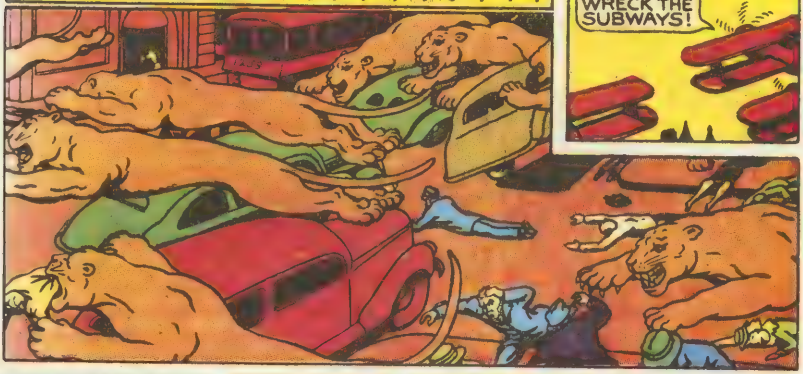
PEOPLE BECOME PANIC-STRICKEN AS THE HIGH-POWERED BOMBS EXPLODE AND THE BUILDINGS ARE WRECKED . .



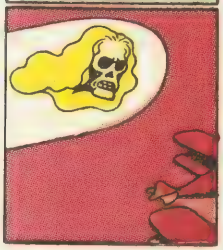
MEANWHILE, THE TRANSPORTS DOCK . .

AND 50,000 GIANT ROYAL PANTHERS ARE TURNED LOOSE IN THE CITY . .

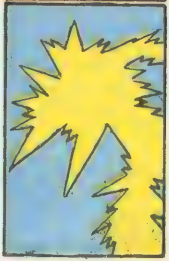
THE HUNGRY ANIMALS BEGIN STAMPEDING THROUGH THE NEW YORK STREETS . . . . . .



THE ENRAGED FANTOMAH SUDDENLY APPEARS ABOVE THE BOMBERS . . .

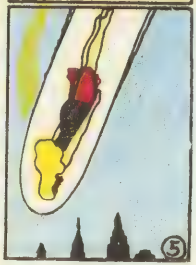


HER FORM IS OBSCURED BY A BRILLIANT RAY.



AND IMMEDIATELY THE PLANES FUSE INTO FLAME . . .

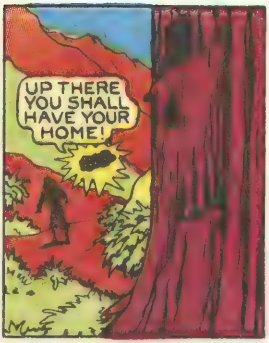
FANTOMAH THEN SWOOPS DOWN TO THE PANTHERS . .



WITH AN EXERTION OF HER MAGIC WILL POWER, SHE STOPS THEIR WILD AND VICIOUS STAMPEDING . . . .
THEN, WITH ANOTHER CONCENTRATED EFFORT, SHE WHISKS THEM INTO THE AIR, ONE BY ONE . . . . . .
SHE DRAWS THEM HIGH IN THE SKY, WHERE THEY DRIFT HELPLESSLY . . .
NEXT, SHE SWOOPS TO THE INFURIATED MARK LORD . . . .
COME WITH ME!
SHE WHISKS HIM INTO THE AIR TO JOIN THE PANTHERS . . . .
SHIPS AT SEA NOTICE THEM
GOOD LORD! FLYING PANTHERS! AND A MAN AND A WOMAN! THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE JUNGLE!
INTO THE PANTHERS' VALLEY THEY GO
YOU HAVE REACHED THE END OF YOUR MAD CAREER, YOU FIEND!

YOU SHALL NEVER AGAIN KNOW CIVILIZATION!

I SHALL TRANSFORM YOU INTO A CAVEMAN!

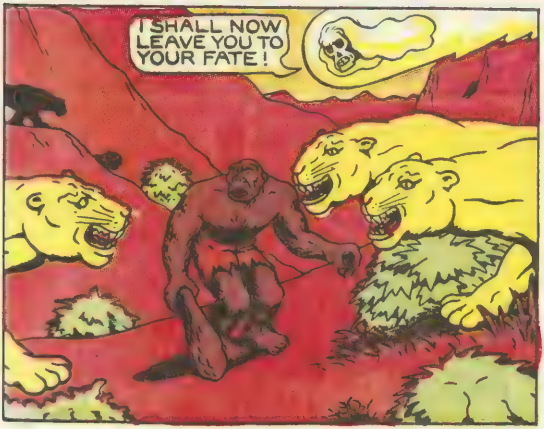

UP THERE YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR HOME!

LIVE AS LONG AS YOU CAN, WITH THE PANTHERS YOU TRIED TO DESTROY!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

THERE COMES A FLASH . . .

AND MARK LORD TURNS INTO A CAVEMAN . . .


I SHALL NOW LEAVE YOU TO YOUR FATE!

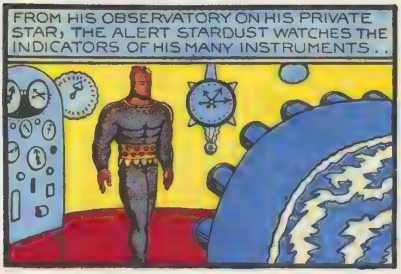
AND FANTOMAH GOES BACK TO HER SECRET OBSERVATORY . . .
7
ANOTHER EXCITING FANTOMAH ADVENTURE, NEXT ISSUE

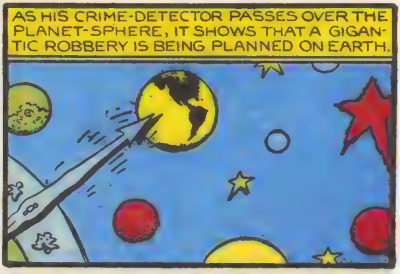
STARDUST

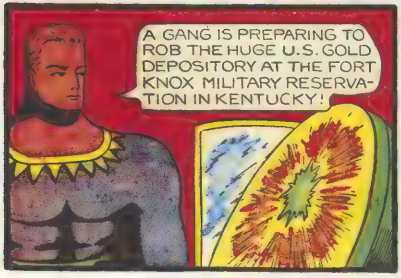
THE SUPER WIZARD

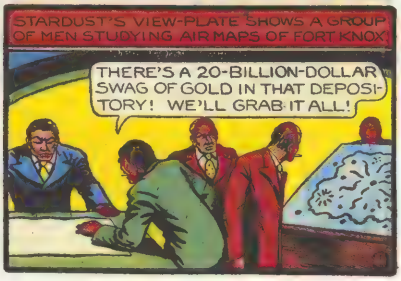
By FLETCHER HANKS

STARDUST, WHOSE VAST KNOWLEDGE OF INTERPLANETARY SCIENCE HAS MADE HIM THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN THAT EVER LIVED, DEVOTES HIS ABILITIES TO RACKET-BUSTING.

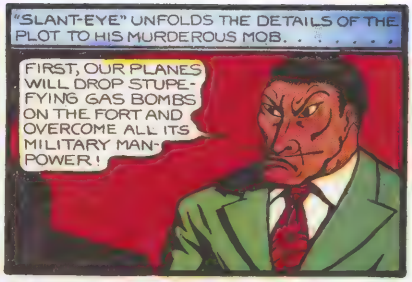


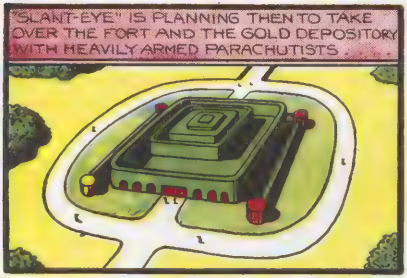


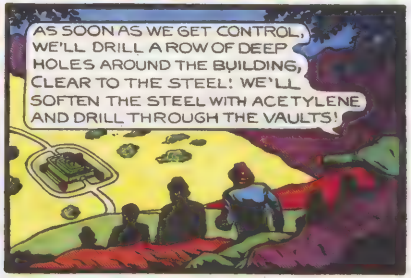




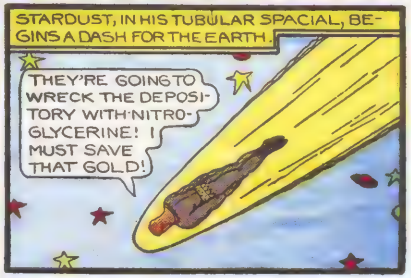
THAT'S "SLANT-EYE" AND HIS GANG! ALL TOUGH BABIES!

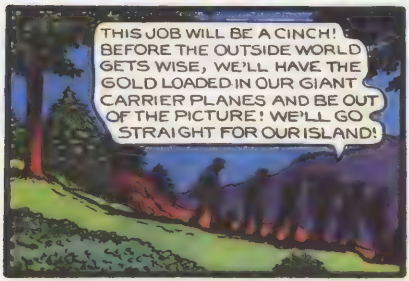

"SLANT-EYE" UNFOLDS THE DETAILS OF THE PLOT TO HIS MURDEROUS MOB. . . . . .
FIRST, OUR PLANES WILL DROP STUPEFYING GAS BOMBS ON THE FORT AND OVERCOME ALL ITS MILITARY MANPOWER!

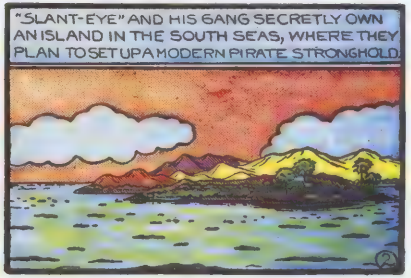

"SLANT-EYE" IS PLANNING THEN TO TAKE OVER THE FORT AND THE GOLD DEPOSITORY WITH HEAVILY ARMED PARACHUTISTS . . .


AS SOON AS WE GET CONTROL, WE'LL DRILL A ROW OF DEEP HOLES AROUND THE BUILDING, CLEAR TO THE STEEL! WE'LL SOFTEN THE STEEL WITH ACETYLENE AND DRILL THROUGH THE VAULTS!

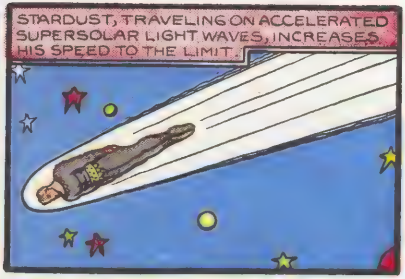
WE'LL FILL THE HOLES WITH ENOUGH "SOUP" TO CRACK OPEN ALL THE PARTITIONS!

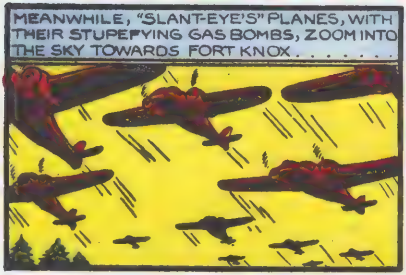

STARDUST, IN HIS TUBULAR SPACIAL, BEGINS A DASH FOR THE EARTH.
THEY'RE GOING TO WRECK THE DEPOSITORY WITH NITROGLYCERINE! I MUST SAVE THAT GOLD!

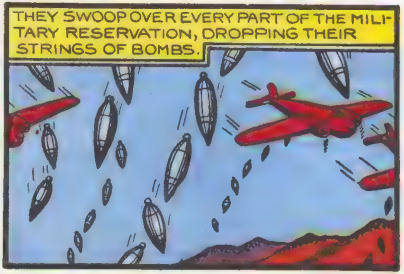

THIS JOB WILL BE A CINCH! BEFORE THE OUTSIDE WORLD GETS WISE, WE'LL HAVE THE GOLD LOADED IN OUR GIANT CARRIER PLANES AND BE OUT OF THE PICTURE! WE'LL GO STRAIGHT FOR OUR ISLAND!

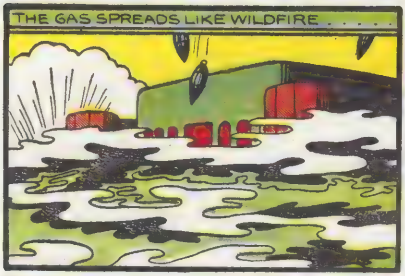

"SLANT-EYE" AND HIS GANG SECRETLY OWN AN ISLAND IN THE SOUTH SEAS, WHERE THEY PLAN TO SET UP A MODERN PIRATE STRONGHOLD.

WITH 20 BILLION DOLLARS, MEN, WE CAN MAKE OUR ISLAND IMPREGNABLE, AND BUILD ENOUGH AIR POWER AND SEA POWER TO KNOCK OFF ALL THE MERCHANT SHIPPING IN THE WORLD! WE'LL SOON OWN THE EARTH!


STARDUST, TRAVELING ON ACCELERATED SUPERSOLAR LIGHT WAVES, INCREASES HIS SPEED TO THE LIMIT.


MEANWHILE, "SLANT-EYE'S" PLANES, WITH THEIR STUPEFYING GAS BOMBS, ZOOM INTO THE SKY TOWARDS FORT KNOX . . . . . .


THEY SWOOP OVER EVERY PART OF THE MILITARY RESERVATION, DROPPING THEIR STRINGS OF BOMBS.

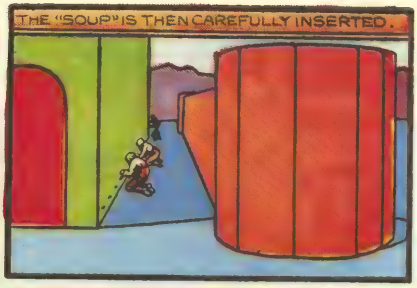

THE GAS SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE . . . . .

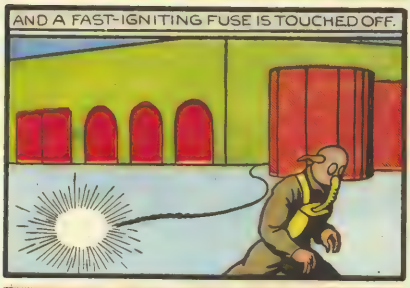
AS THE SURPRISED SOLDIERS AND GUARDS ARE OVERCOME, "SLANT-EYE'S" PARACHUTE MOB DROPS OUT OF THE AIR.

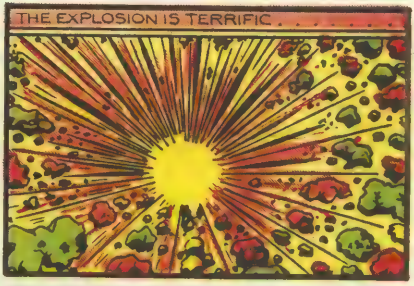
THE ENTIRE RESERVATION SOON FALLS INTO THE HANDS OF THE WELL-ARMED GANGSTERS

A CREW OF EXPERT DRILLERS IMMEDIATELY RUSHES TO THE WALLS OF THE GOLD DEPOSITORY.
STEP ON IT, YOU GUYS!

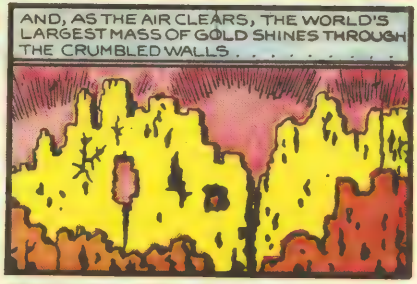
THE DRILLS AND ACETYLENE TORCHES OPEN UP A RING OF DEEP HOLES FOR THE NITRO-GLYCERINE.

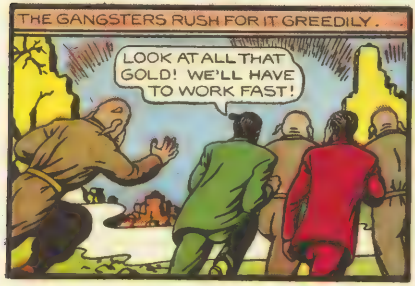

THE "SOUP" IS THEN CAREFULLY INSERTED.

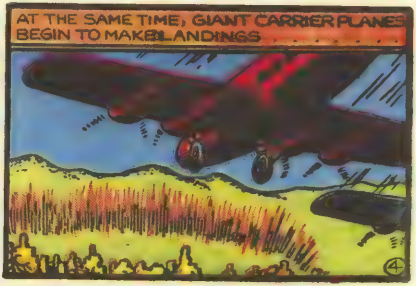

AND A FAST-IGNITING FUSE IS TOUCHED OFF.

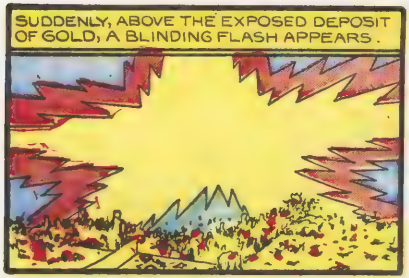

THE EXPLOSION IS TERRIFIC . . . . . .

DEBRIS RAINS ALL OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE.

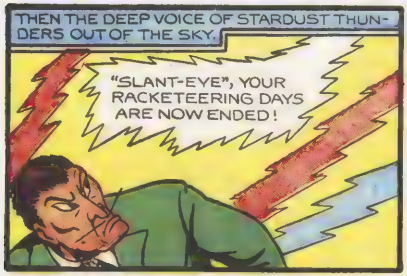

AND, AS THE AIR CLEARS, THE WORLD'S LARGEST MASS OF GOLD SHINES THROUGH THE CRUMBLED WALLS . . . . . .

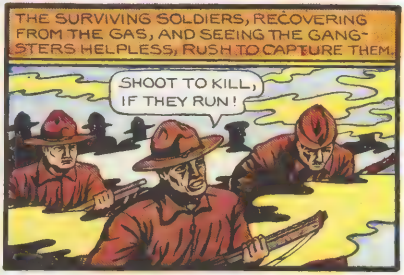

THE GANGSTERS RUSH FOR IT GREEDILY . . .
LOOK AT ALL THAT GOLD! WE'LL HAVE TO WORK FAST!


AT THE SAME TIME, GIANT CARRIER PLANES BEGIN TO MAKE LANDINGS . . . . . .
4

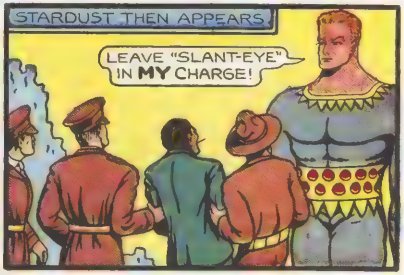

SUDDENLY, ABOVE THE EXPOSED DEPOSIT OF GOLD, A BLINDING FLASH APPEARS.

AND EVERY GANGSTER IS RENDERED HELPLESS BY THE POWER OF A MYSTERIOUS RAY.
UGH-H!


THEN THE DEEP VOICE OF STARDUST THUNDERS OUT OF THE SKY.
"SLANT-EYE", YOUR RACKETEERING DAYS ARE NOW ENDED!


THE SURVIVING SOLDIERS, RECOVERING FROM THE GAS, AND SEEING THE GANGSTERS HELPLESS, RUSH TO CAPTURE THEM.
SHOOT TO KILL, IF THEY RUN!

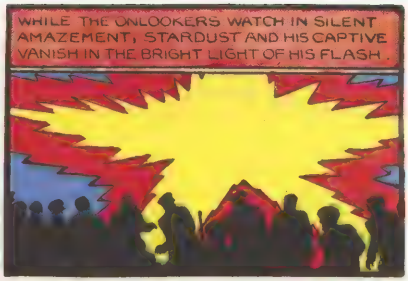
THE GANGSTERS ARE TOO HELPLESS TO RESIST, AND SOON BECOME PRISONERS.


STARDUST THEN APPEARS.
LEAVE "SLANT-EYE" IN MY CHARGE!

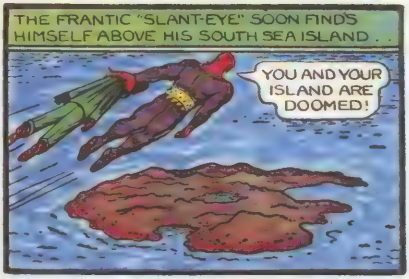
I'LL PLACE YOU WHERE YOU CAN NO LONGER BE A PUBLIC ENEMY!
HUH?

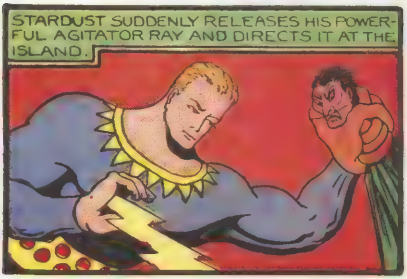
"SLANT-EYE" IS TERRIFIED, AS HE SEES THE HAND OF STARDUST CHANGE FORM.
YOU'RE GOING TO YOUR ISLAND, "SLANT-EYE", TO LIVE IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE OCTOPUS OF GOLD!
5

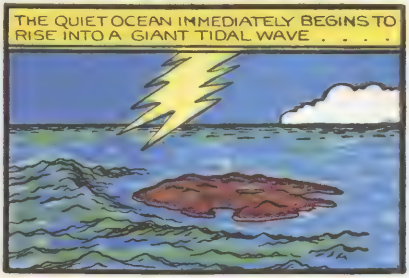
THE TRANSFORMED HAND OF THE SUPER WIZARD ENTWINES AROUND THE GANGSTER.
YOU'D BETTER SAY BYE-BYE TO YOUR MOB!

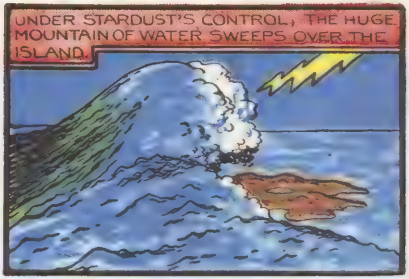

WHILE THE ONLOOKERS WATCH IN SILENT AMAZEMENT, STARDUST AND HIS CAPTIVE VANISH IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF HIS FLASH.

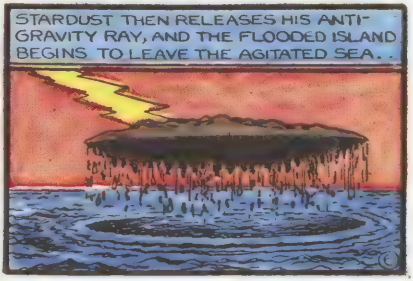
THEY ASCEND INTO THE CLOUDS...
WHERE AM I?
YOU ARE WHERE YOU CAN DESTROY NO MORE LIFE AND PROPERTY, "SLANT-EYE"!

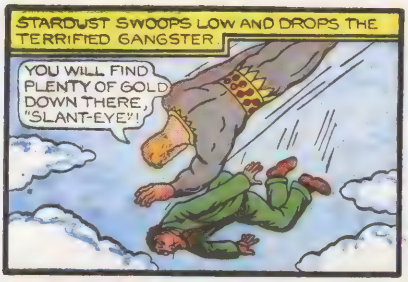

THE FRANTIC "SLANT-EYE" SOON FINDS HIMSELF ABOVE HIS SOUTH SEA ISLAND..
YOU AND YOUR ISLAND ARE DOOMED!

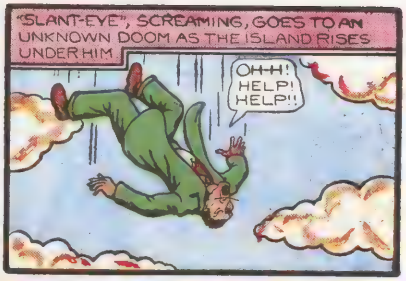

STARDUST SUDDENLY RELEASES HIS POWERFUL AGITATOR RAY AND DIRECTS IT AT THE ISLAND.

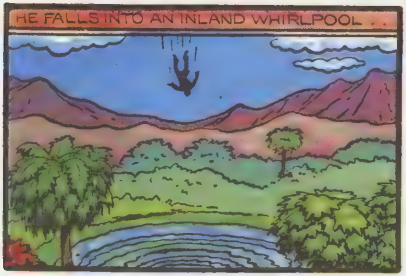

THE QUIET OCEAN IMMEDIATELY BEGINS TO RISE INTO A GIANT TIDAL WAVE....

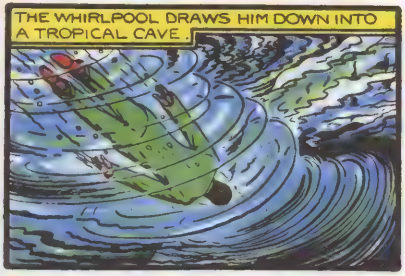

UNDER STARDUST'S CONTROL, THE HUGE MOUNTAIN OF WATER SWEEPS OVER THE ISLAND.

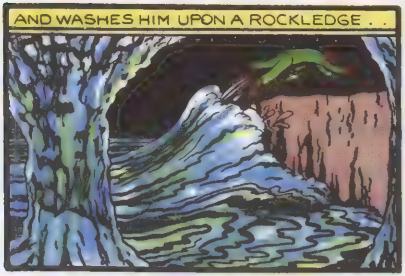

STARDUST THEN RELEASES HIS ANTI-GRAVITY RAY, AND THE FLOODED ISLAND BEGINS TO LEAVE THE AGITATED SEA..


STARDUST SWOOPS LOW AND DROPS THE TERRIFIED GANGSTER
YOU WILL FIND PLENTY OF GOLD DOWN THERE, "SLANT-EYE"!

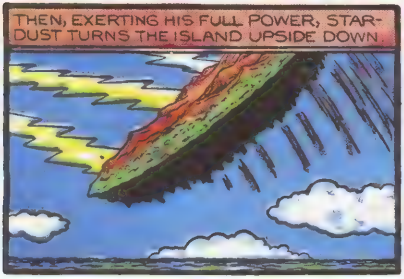

"SLANT-EYE", SCREAMING, GOES TO AN UNKNOWN DOOM AS THE ISLAND RISES UNDER HIM
OH-H! HELP! HELP!!

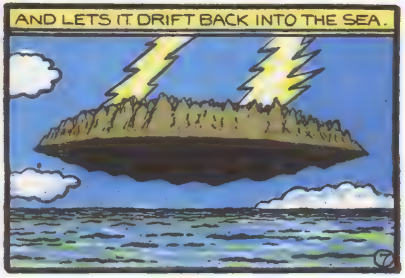

HE FALLS INTO AN INLAND WHIRLPOOL . .

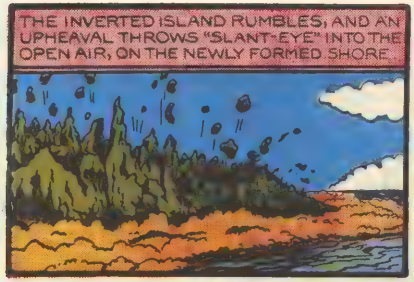

THE WHIRLPOOL DRAWS HIM DOWN INTO A TROPICAL CAVE .

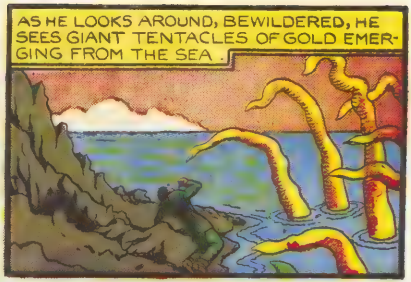

AND WASHES HIM UPON A ROCKLEDGE . .

HE HEARS STARDUST'S VOICE . . . . . .
GET READY FOR THE GOLDEN OCTOPUS, "SLANT-EYE"!

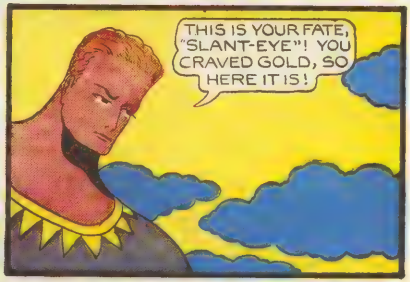

THEN, EXERTING HIS FULL POWER, STARDUST TURNS THE ISLAND UPSIDE DOWN.


AND LETS IT DRIFT BACK INTO THE SEA.

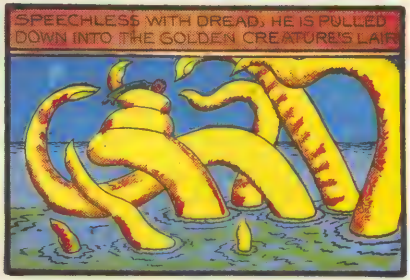

THE INVERTED ISLAND RUMBLES, AND AN UPHEAVAL THROWS "SLANT-EYE" INTO THE OPEN AIR, ON THE NEWLY FORMED SHORE.


AS HE LOOKS AROUND, BEWILDERED, HE SEES GIANT TENTACLES OF GOLD EMERGING FROM THE SEA.

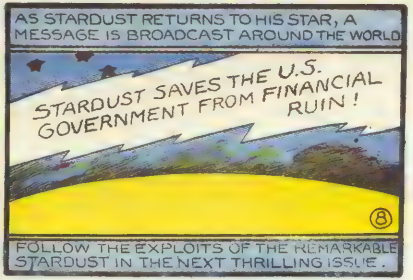
BEFORE HE CAN ESCAPE, ONE TENTACLE REACHES OUT AND GRABS HIM . . . .
OW-W!


THIS IS YOUR FATE, "SLANT-EYE"! YOU CRAVED GOLD, SO HERE IT IS!

"SLANT-EYE" SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN THE RELENTLESS CLUTCHES OF A SHINING OCTOPUS OF GOLD.


SPEECHLESS WITH DREAD, HE IS PULLED DOWN INTO THE GOLDEN CREATURE'S LAIR.

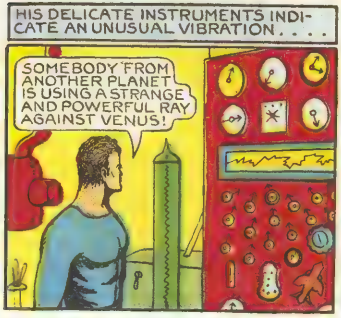
MEANWHILE, "SLANT-EYE'S" GANG HAS BEEN IMPRISONED, AND THE U.S. DEPOSIT OF GOLD REMAINS SAFE.
WE MUST REBUILD THE DEPOSITORY AT ONCE!

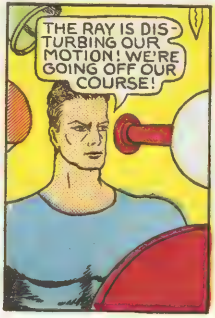

AS STARDUST RETURNS TO HIS STAR, A MESSAGE IS BROADCAST AROUND THE WORLD.
STARDUST SAVES THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FROM FINANCIAL RUIN!
8
FOLLOW THE EXPLOITS OF THE REMARKABLE STARDUST IN THE NEXT THRILLING ISSUE.

Buzz Crandall of the SPACE PATROL

By Bob Jordan

BUZZ CRANDALL LIVES ON THE HIGHLY CIVILIZED PLANET OF VENUS, AND IS IN CHARGE OF THE INTER-PLANETARY SECRET SERVICE FOR BOTH VENUS AND THE EARTH. HE HAS BECOME THE TOP CRIME-BUSTER OF THE UNIVERSE . . . .





SANDRA HALE IS BUZZ CRANDALL'S CHIEF ASSISTANT ON THE EARTH.

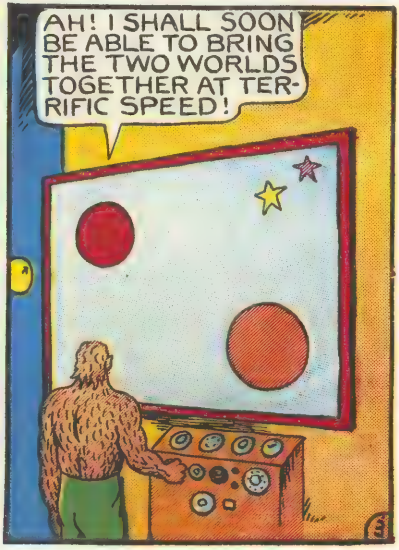
WHAT SHALL I DO, BUZZ? THE EARTH IS SUFFERING VERY VIOLENT SHOCKS! THE WHOLE PLANET IS BEING AFFECTED BY SOME OUTSIDE FORCE!

THE SAME THING IS HAPPENING TO VENUS, SANDRA!! YOU'D BETTER GO OUT AND SCOUT AROUND AND CHECK THE DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE POWER RAY IS COMING!

KEEP YOUR BOARD CLEAR AND KEEP IN CONTACT WITH ME! I'M GOING OUT IN MY SUPER-CRUISER RIGGED WITH AN INTERPLANETARY GUN!

SANDRA SOON LEAVES THE EARTH IN HER SCOUT-SHIP.

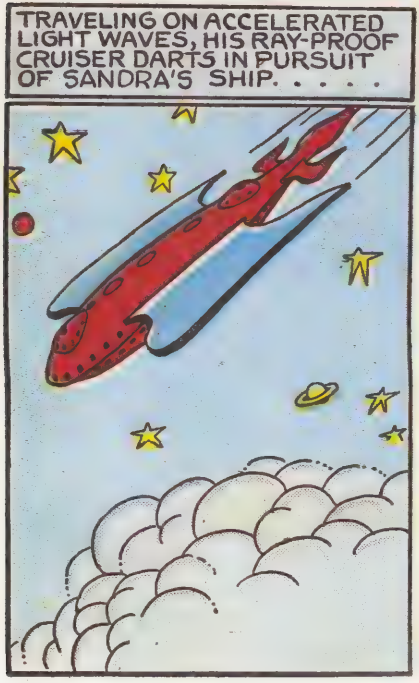
MEANWHILE, IN HIS SCIENTIFIC STRONGHOLD ON AN UNDISCOVERED STAR, A MADMAN, KNOWN AS **LEPUS-THE-FIEND**, LAYS PLANS TO WRECK PLANETS WITH A RAY.



CRANDALL TALKS TO SANDRA...
I HAVE LOCATED THE GENERAL DIRECTION FROM WHICH THE RAY IS COMING, BUT I CAN'T CHECK THE PLANET!
IT'S GETTING STRONGER! I CAN HARDLY CONTROL MY SHIP!
LEPUS-THE-FIEND PICKS UP THEIR CONVERSATION..
SO THE INTERPLANETARY SECRET SERVICE IS AFTER ME, EH? WELL, I'LL FIX THEM!
SUDDENLY, SANDRA'S SWITCHBOARD GOES OUT OF ORDER.
OH-H!
THEN SANDRA LOSES CONTROL OF HER SHIP.
AS SHE ZIG-ZAGS THROUGH SPACE, SHE BECOMES UNCONSCIOUS . . . . . .
AH! I HAVE ONE OF THEM IN MY POWER!
AT TERRIFIC SPEED, SANDRA'S HELPLESS SHIP IS DRAWN TO THE STAR WHERE LEPUS IS OPERATING HIS RAY APPARATUS . . . . . .

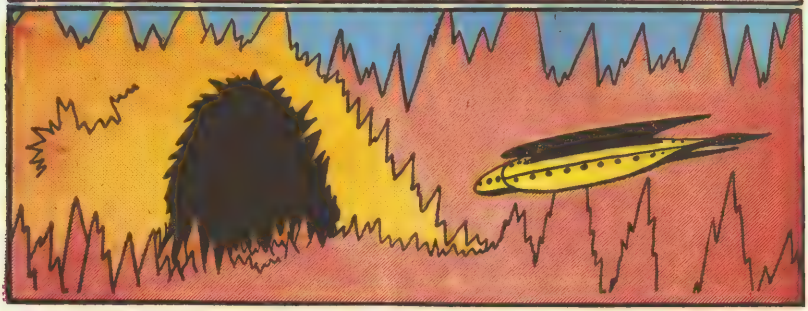
I'LL SOON HAVE A PRISONER!

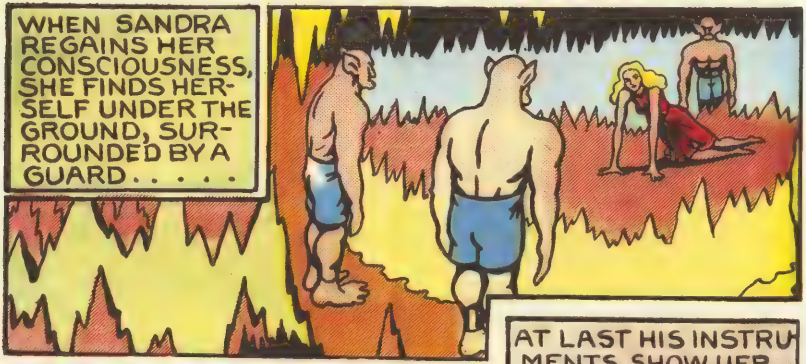
CRANDALL, REALIZING THAT SOMETHING WRONG HAS HAPPENED TO LONE SANDRA, PICKS UP HER COURSE ON HIS FINDER.


TRAVELING ON ACCELERATED LIGHT WAVES, HIS RAY-PROOF CRUISER DARTS IN PURSUIT OF SANDRA'S SHIP. . . . .

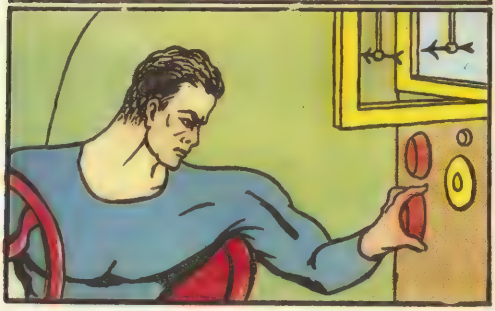
SANDRA'S SHIP IS NOW NEAR THE STAR. . . . . .
I'LL INTERNE IT UNDERGROUND
5

LEPUS DIRECTS THE HELPLESS CRAFT TO A HUGE CAVE.

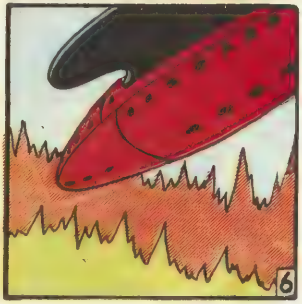


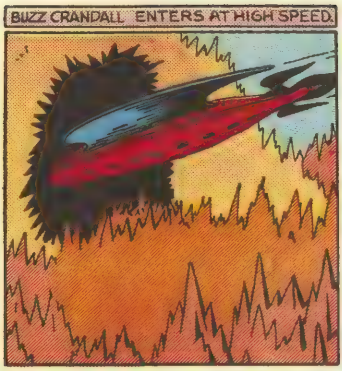


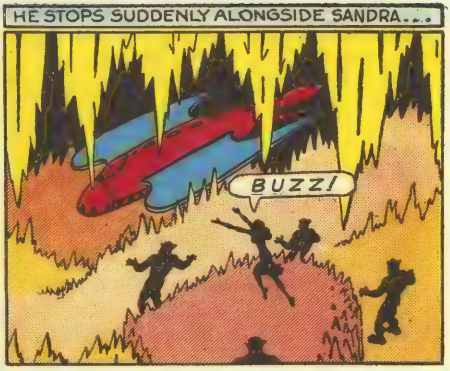
CRANDALL HAS LOCATED THE STAR, AND NOW HE IS TUNING HIS FINDERS FOR SANDRA . . . . .



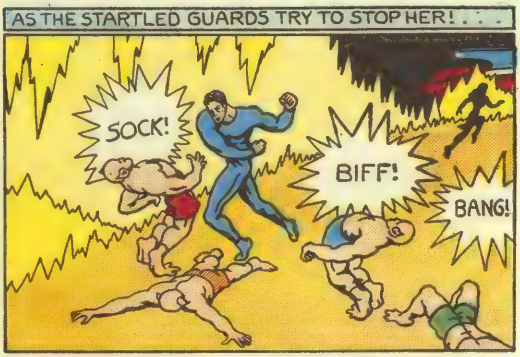
AT LAST HIS INSTRUMENTS SHOW HER EXACT LOCATION, AND HE HEADS FOR THE CAVE . . . . .




BUZZ CRANDALL ENTERS AT HIGH SPEED.

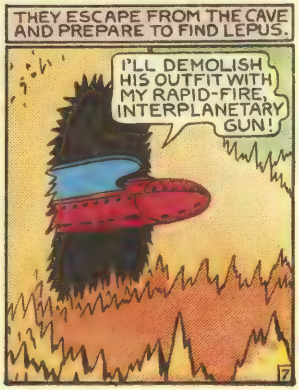

HE STOPS SUDDENLY ALONGSIDE SANDRA...
BUZZ!

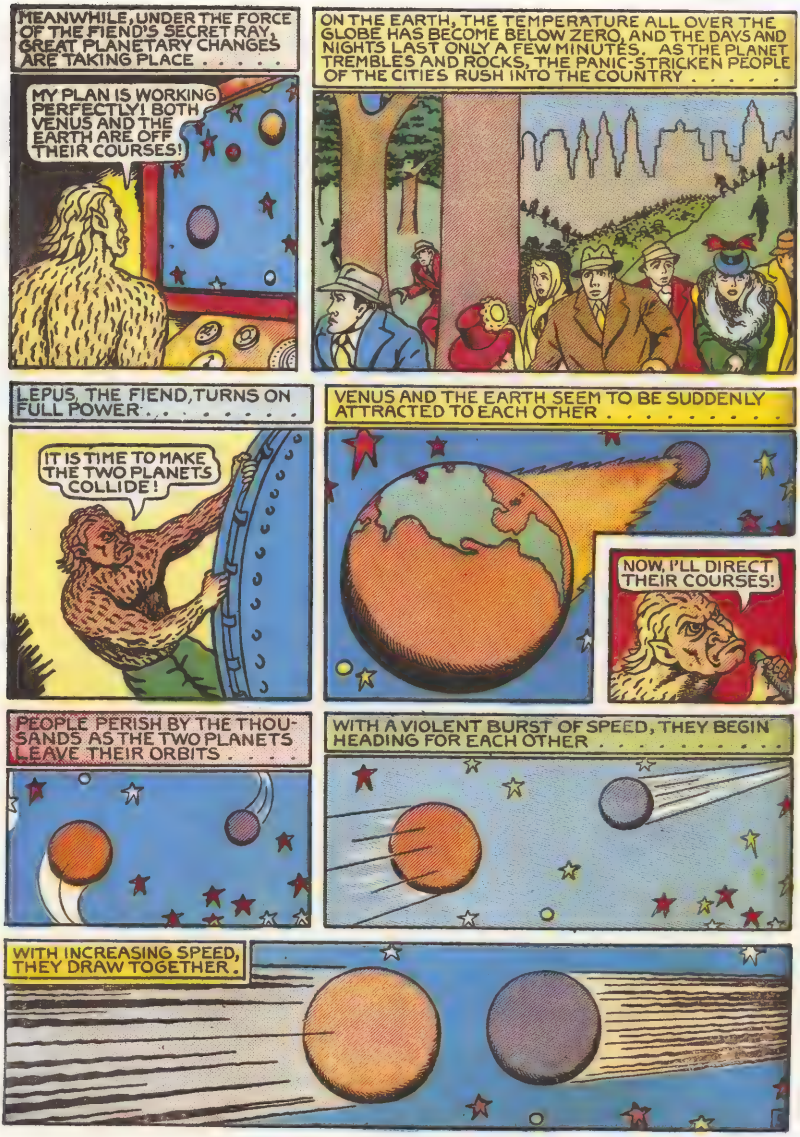
QUICK, SANDRA, GET IN MY SHIP!

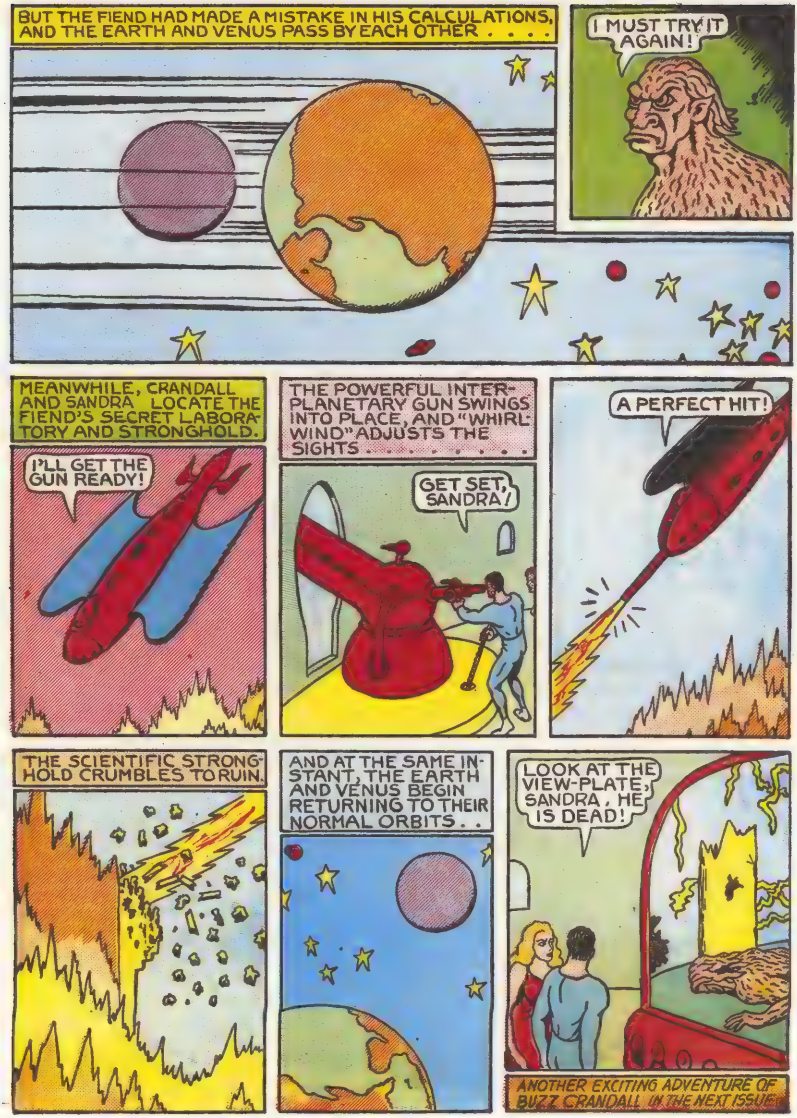

AS THE STARTLED GUARDS TRY TO STOP HER!...
SOCK!
BIFF!
BANG!

COME ON, BUZZ!!

WE MUST FIND THE MADMAN WHO IS USING THOSE RAYS!


THEY ESCAPE FROM THE CAVE AND PREPARE TO FIND LEPUS.
I'LL DEMOLISH HIS OUTFIT WITH MY RAPID-FIRE, INTERPLANETARY GUN!
7


MEANWHILE, UNDER THE FORCE OF THE FIEND'S SECRET RAY, GREAT PLANETARY CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE . . . . .
MY PLAN IS WORKING PERFECTLY! BOTH VENUS AND THE EARTH ARE OFF THEIR COURSES!
ON THE EARTH, THE TEMPERATURE ALL OVER THE GLOBE HAS BECOME BELOW ZERO, AND THE DAYS AND NIGHTS LAST ONLY A FEW MINUTES. AS THE PLANET TREMBLES AND ROCKS, THE PANIC-STRICKEN PEOPLE OF THE CITIES RUSH INTO THE COUNTRY . . . . .
LEPUS, THE FIEND, TURNS ON FULL POWER . . . . . .
IT IS TIME TO MAKE THE TWO PLANETS COLLIDE!
VENUS AND THE EARTH SEEM TO BE SUDDENLY ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER . . . . . .
NOW, I'LL DIRECT THEIR COURSES!
PEOPLE PERISH BY THE THOUSANDS AS THE TWO PLANETS LEAVE THEIR ORBITS . . . .
WITH A VIOLENT BURST OF SPEED, THEY BEGIN HEADING FOR EACH OTHER . . . . . .
WITH INCREASING SPEED, THEY DRAW TOGETHER.

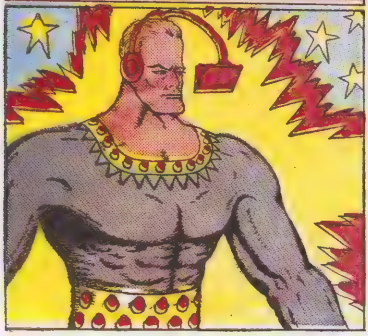

BUT THE FIEND HAD MADE A MISTAKE IN HIS CALCULATIONS, AND THE EARTH AND VENUS PASS BY EACH OTHER . . . .
I MUST TRY IT AGAIN!
MEANWHILE, CRANDALL AND SANDRA LOCATE THE FIEND'S SECRET LABORATORY AND STRONGHOLD.
I'LL GET THE GUN READY!
THE POWERFUL INTER-PLANETARY GUN SWINGS INTO PLACE, AND "WHIRLWIND" ADJUSTS THE SIGHTS . . . . . .
GET SET, SANDRA!
A PERFECT HIT!
THE SCIENTIFIC STRONGHOLD CRUMBLES TO RUIN.
AND AT THE SAME INSTANT, THE EARTH AND VENUS BEGIN RETURNING TO THEIR NORMAL ORBITS . .
LOOK AT THE VIEW-PLATE, SANDRA, HE IS DEAD!
ANOTHER EXCITING ADVENTURE OF BUZZ CRANDALL IN THE NEXT ISSUE

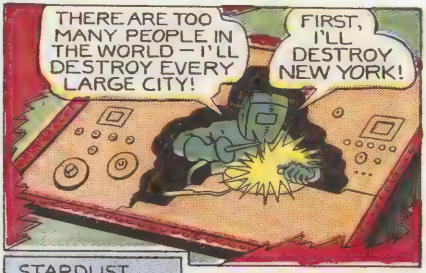
THE SUPER WIZARD STARDUST

By FLETCHER HANKS

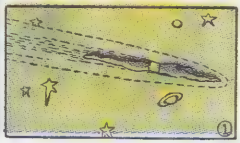
STARDUST, THE INTERPLANETARY MARVEL, WHOSE PHENOMENAL KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES HAVE MADE HIM THE MOST SUPERIOR MAN THAT EVER LIVED, IS DEVOTING HIMSELF TO CRIME-BUSTING ON VARIOUS PLANETS . . . . . .

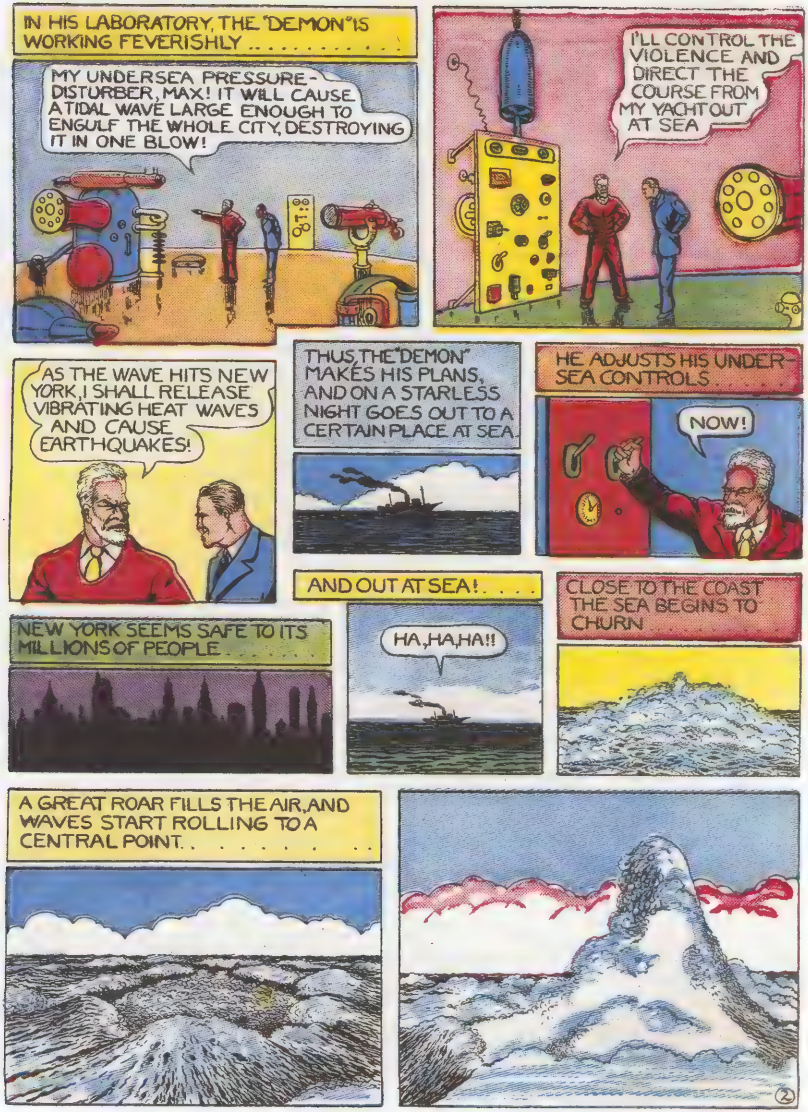
STARDUST'S CRIME-DETECTING RAY-PHONE VIEW PLATE REVEALS PLANS OF A CRIMINAL SCIENTIST CALLED THE "DEMON"





STARDUST, MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY, STARTS FOR THE EARTH, TRAVELING ON ACCELERATED LIGHT WAVES.




IN HIS LABORATORY, THE "DEMON" IS WORKING FEVERISHLY . . . . . .
MY UNDERSEA PRESSURE-DISTURBER, MAX! IT WILL CAUSE A TIDAL WAVE LARGE ENOUGH TO ENGULF THE WHOLE CITY, DESTROYING IT IN ONE BLOW!
I'LL CONTROL THE VIOLENCE AND DIRECT THE COURSE FROM MY YACHT OUT AT SEA
AS THE WAVE HITS NEW YORK, I SHALL RELEASE VIBRATING HEAT WAVES AND CAUSE EARTHQUAKES!
THUS, THE "DEMON" MAKES HIS PLANS, AND ON A STARLESS NIGHT GOES OUT TO A CERTAIN PLACE AT SEA.
HE ADJUSTS HIS UNDER-SEA CONTROLS . . . . . .
NOW!
AND OUT AT SEA! . . . .
HA, HA, HA!!
CLOSE TO THE COAST THE SEA BEGINS TO CHURN . . . .
NEW YORK SEEMS SAFE TO ITS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE . . . . . .
A GREAT ROAR FILLS THE AIR, AND WAVES START ROLLING TO A CENTRAL POINT . . . . . .
2

LIKE SOME FORMLESS SEA-MONSTER, THE WAVE BEGINS TO MOVE TOWARDS SHORE.

HA, HA, HA! ADJUST THE DIRECTIONAL CONTROL, MAX!!

TALLER AND TALLER IT GROWS, AS IT GAINS IN SPEED.—THE "DEMON" LAUGHS CRUELLY WHEN HE SEES A GREAT OCEAN LINER BEING CAUGHT IN ITS PATH . . . . . .

THE LINER WILL BE CRUSHED LIKE A TOY BOAT!

YOU'RE TRULY A GENIUS, "DEMON"!

THE LINER IS SMASHED, AND ITS 2,000 PASSENGERS DISAPPEAR INTO THE SEA

THE "DEMON" GLOATS OVER THE AWFUL DISASTER . . .

PERFECT!

SUDDENLY, ABOVE HIS YACHT, A BRILLIANT LIGHT APPEARS . . . . . .

ABOARD HIS YACHT, THE "DEMON" IS BLINDED BY ANOTHER LIGHT, AND HIS SWITCHBOARD CURLS INTO A USELESS MASS. . . . . .

GOOD LORD!

YOU HAVE THE BLOOD OF 2,000 DROWNED SOULS ON YOUR HANDS, "DEMON"!

THE LIGHT DISAPPEARS. . . . . .

HOLY SMOKE! STARDUST!

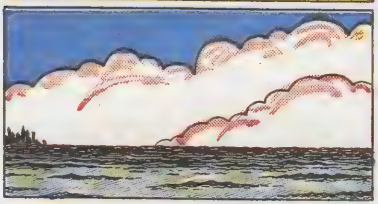
STARDUST WHISKS HIM AWAY. . . .

ALTHOUGH THE "DEMON'S" MACHINES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, THE GREAT WAVE KEEPS MOVING. . . . . IT IS CLOSE TO NEW YORK NOW, AND PEOPLE HAVE SIGHTED IT.

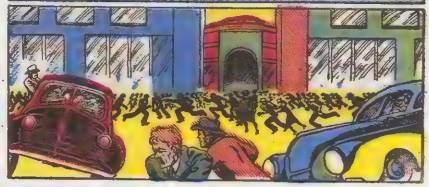
BOATS ARE HURRYING TO HARBOR, AND THE CITY IS IN A PANIC.

SUDDENLY, STARDUST FLASHES ACROSS THE SKY, WHISKING THE "DEMON" WITH HIM.
YOU SHALL BE DESTROYED BY YOUR OWN EVIL CREATION, "DEMON"!
STARDUST DROPS THE "DEMON" IN FRONT OF THE GREAT WAVE
THE CREST STRIKES A DEATH-DEALING BLOW...
STARDUST USES HIS DISINTEGRATING RAY, AND "DEMON" DISAPPEARS FOREVER...
THE SUPER WIZARD THEN SWEEPS CLOSE TO THE WAVE AND RELEASES HIS POWERFUL ANTI-GRAVITY RAY AND REVERSING ARC...
THE MOUNTAIN OF WATER HANGS IN AIR, MOTIONLESS...
STARDUST ALLOWS GRAVITY GRADUALLY TO DRAW THE PACIFIED WAVE BACK TO SEA LEVEL.....

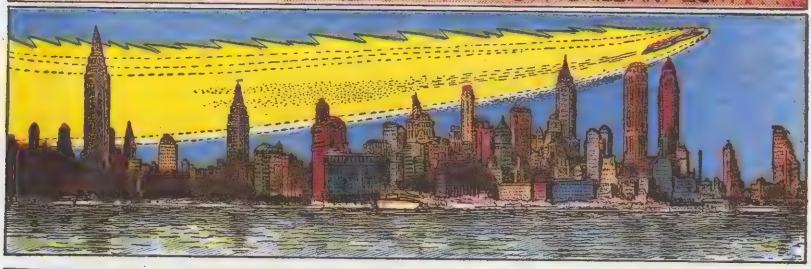
FINALLY THE SEA IS NORMAL. . .



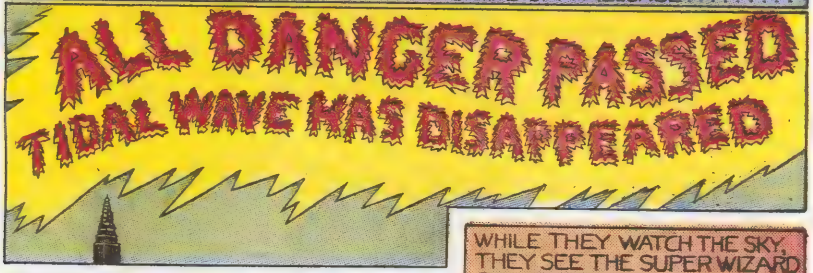
BUT THE PEOPLE OF NEW YORK ARE STILL IN A PANIC. . .

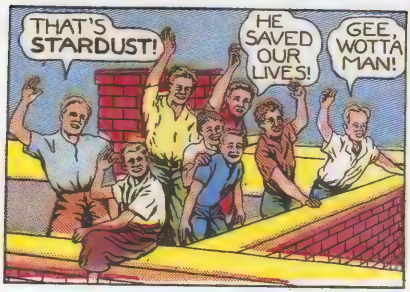


THEIR ATTENTION IS SUDDENLY ATTRACTED BY A BRILLIANT LIGHT. . .



AS THEY LOOK, THE LIGHT TAKES THE SHAPE OF A MESSAGE. . . . . .





WHILE THEY WATCH THE SKY, THEY SEE THE SUPER WIZARD RETURN TO SPACE. . .

6

STARDUST WILL PREVENT THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH. DON'T MISS HIS EXCITING ADVENTURE!

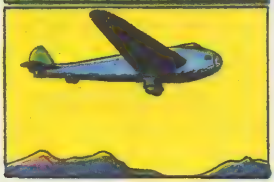
MYSTERY WOMAN OF THE JUNGLE

FANTOMAH

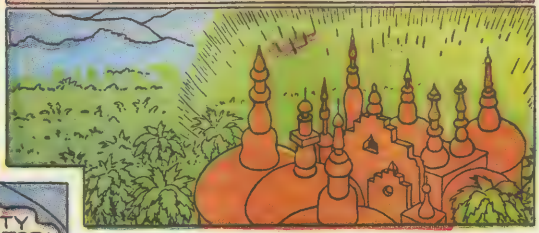
BY BARCLAY FLAGG

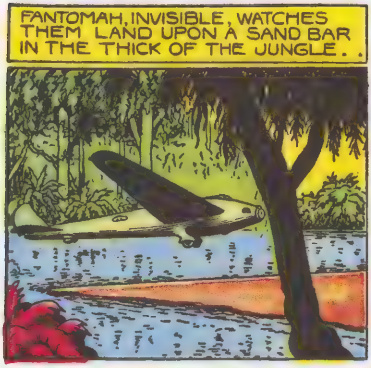
FANTOMAH, THE MOST MARVELOUS WOMAN EVER KNOWN, HAS SUCH A REMARKABLE INSIGHT THAT SHE CAN SEE ALL THAT EVER HAPPENS IN JUNGLELAND . . . BY USING HER STRANGE POWERS, SHE HAS DISCOVERED TWO WHITE MEN PLANNING TO ROB THE JUNGLE OF ITS MOST SACRED TREASURE, THE JEWELS OF "THE GREAT AVENGER" . . . . . .

SHE WATCHES THEIR GIANT PLANE SOARING OVER THE JUNGLE . . .



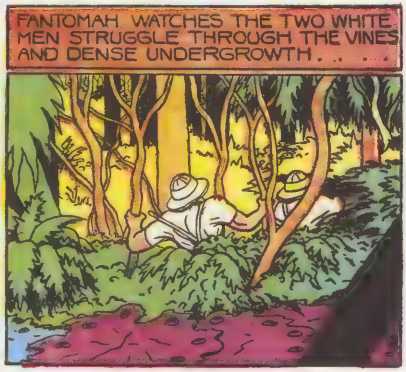
IN THE HEART OF THE DENSE JUNGLE, SURROUNDED BY TOWERING PALMS, LIES THE ANCIENT CITY OF GOLD, CONTAINING THE SACRED JEWELS OF "THE GREAT AVENGER" . . . . . .

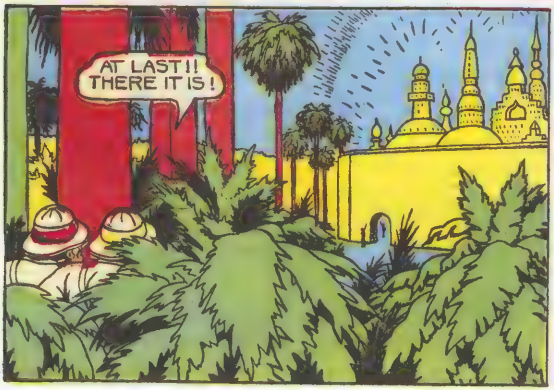


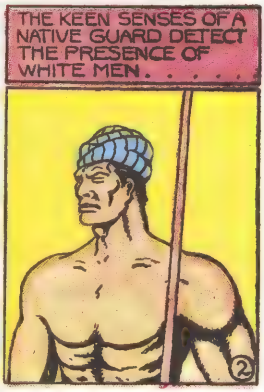

FANTOMAH, INVISIBLE, WATCHES THEM LAND UPON A SAND BAR IN THE THICK OF THE JUNGLE. .

I WONDER HOW WE CAN REACH THE CITY OF GOLD?
WE MUST BE CAREFUL! THE CITY IS GUARDED!

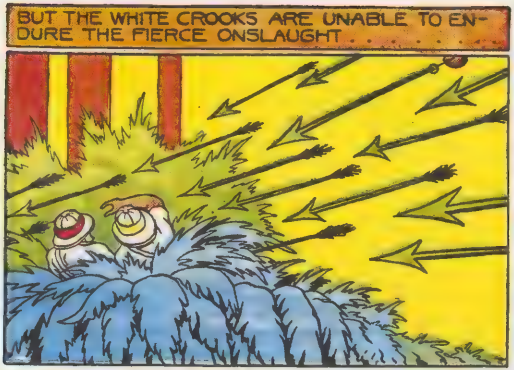
WE'LL HAVE TO USE OUR COMPASS!


FANTOMAH WATCHES THE TWO WHITE MEN STRUGGLE THROUGH THE VINES AND DENSE UNDERGROWTH. . . . .


AT LAST!! THERE IT IS!

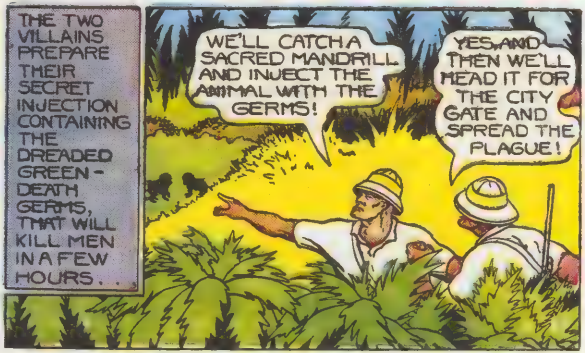

THE KEEN SENSES OF A NATIVE GUARD DETECT THE PRESENCE OF WHITE MEN. . . . .
2

THE SOFT PURR OF HIS JU-JU DRUM SOUNDS THE WARNING . . . .
THE INTERIOR GUARDS PREPARE AGAINST INVASION . . . .
FANTOMAN DRAWS NEARER TO THE CITY . . .
THE TWO WHITE MEN COME TO THE EDGE OF THE JUNGLE . .
CONFOUND IT! I BELIEVE THE GUARDS HAVE HEARD US!
LOOK AT THAT CITY! ALL GOLD AND JEWELS! WE MUST TAKE A CHANCE, FOR THE REWARD WILL BE WORTH IT!
ALL RIGHT! WE'LL DRIVE THEM OFF WITH OUR TOMMY GUNS!
THE GUARDS ARE READY, AND AS THE MARAUDERS MAKE THEIR ATTACK, A VOLLEY OF NATIVE SPEARS AND ARROWS FILLS THE AIR
WATCH YOURSELF! THOSE ARROWS MAY HAVE POISON ON THEM!
THE MACHINE GUNS BELCH DEATH AMONG THE PRIMITIVE MEN..
3


BUT THE WHITE CROOKS ARE UNABLE TO ENDURE THE FIERCE ONSLAUGHT . . . . . .

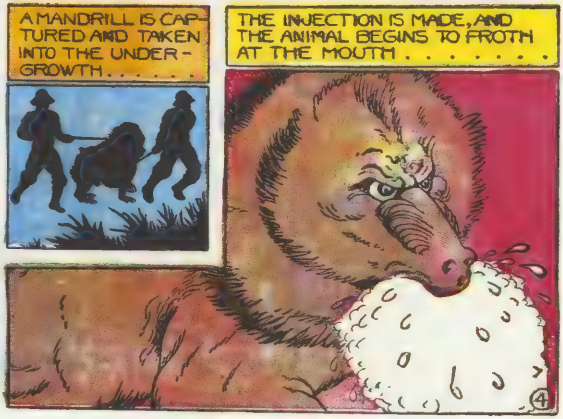
THEY ARE DRIVEN BACK INTO THE JUNGLE . . . . . .
WE'LL HAVE TO FIGURE OUT ANOTHER PLAN!

I HAVE IT— WE'LL USE OUR INJECTOR AND SPREAD THE GREEN-DEATH PLAGUE AMONG THE GUARDS!

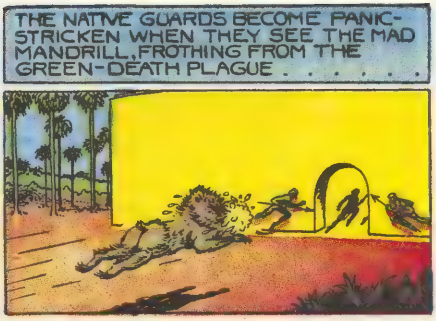

THE TWO VILLAINS PREPARE THEIR SECRET INJECTION CONTAINING THE DREADED GREEN-DEATH GERMS, THAT WILL KILL MEN IN A FEW HOURS. .
WE'LL CATCH A SACRED MANDRILL AND INJECT THE ANIMAL WITH THE GERMS!
YES, AND THEN WE'LL HEAD IT FOR THE CITY GATE AND SPREAD THE PLAGUE!

FANTOMAH LISTENS TO THEIR PLANS. . . . . .

A MANDRILL IS CAPTURED AND TAKEN INTO THE UNDER-GROWTH. . . . . .


THE INJECTION IS MADE, AND THE ANIMAL BEGINS TO FROTH AT THE MOUTH . . . . . .
4

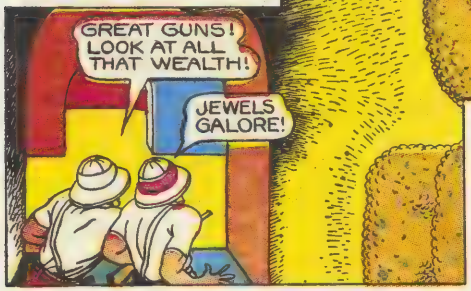
HE'LL SOON BE MAD AND RUN WILD!
WE'LL HEAD HIM STRAIGHT FOR THE GATE!

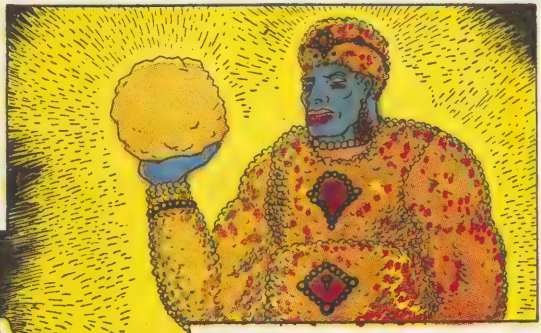

THE NATIVE GUARDS BECOME PANIC-STRICKEN WHEN THEY SEE THE MAD MANDRILL, FROTHING FROM THE GREEN-DEATH PLAGUE . . . . . .

LOOK! THE GUARDS HAVE ALL FLED!

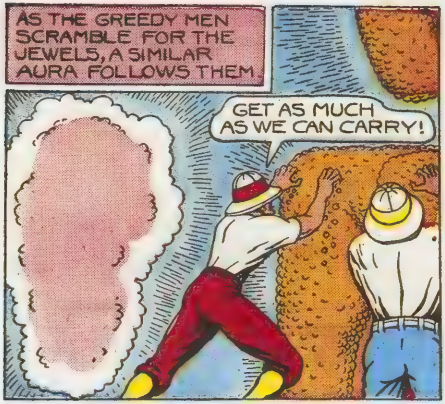
COME ON!! STRAIGHT FOR THOSE JEWELS!

TURN THIS WAY!


GREAT GUNS! LOOK AT ALL THAT WEALTH!
JEWELS GALORE!

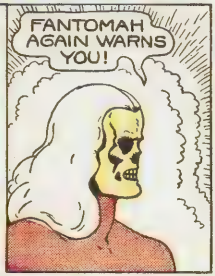


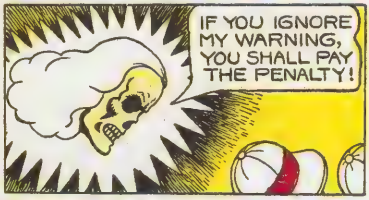
MEANWHILE, THE SACRED MANDRILL IS MYSTERIOUSLY CURED AND STANDS IN A PROTECTIVE AURA. .


AS THE GREEDY MEN SCRAMBLE FOR THE JEWELS, A SIMILAR AURA FOLLOWS THEM.
GET AS MUCH AS WE CAN CARRY!

THE AURA TAKES DEFINITE FORM.
FANTOMAH WARNS YOU NOT TO TOUCH THE JUNGLE'S SACRED TREASURE!
WHO IS SHE?

NEVER MIND HER! GET THE JEWELS!

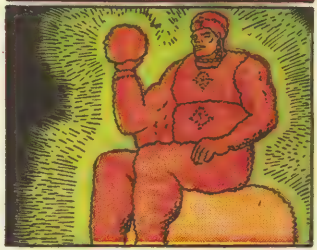

FANTOMAH AGAIN WARNS YOU!

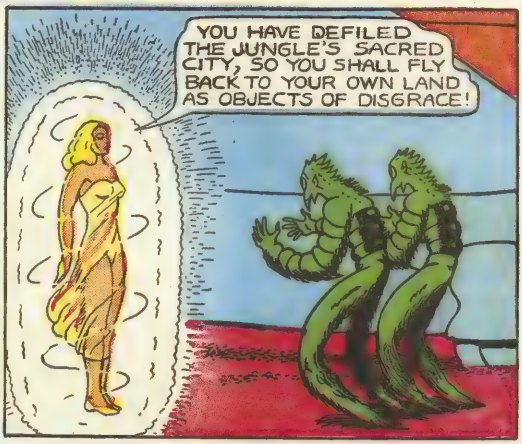

IF YOU IGNORE MY WARNING, YOU SHALL PAY THE PENALTY!

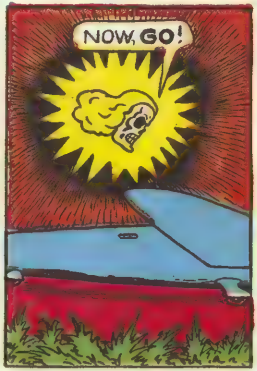
THE MARAUDERS, PAYING NO HEED TO THE WARNING, ARE SUDDENLY ENCASED IN A TERRIFYING AURA . . .

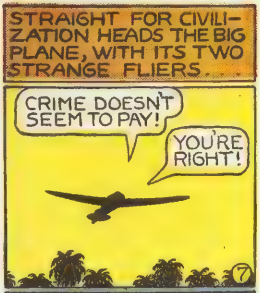
THEY CHANGE VERY RAPIDLY. . . . . .

FANTOMAH WILLS IT!
6









IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE OF JUNGLE COMICS, FANTOMAH FOILS THE WILD LEGIONS OF BEAST-MEN!

STARDUST

THE SUPER WIZARD

By FLETCHER HANKS

STARDUST, WHOSE VAST KNOWLEDGE OF INTERPLANETARY SCIENCE HAS MADE HIM THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN THAT EVER LIVED, DEVOTES HIS ABILITIES TO RACKET-BUSTING . .

STARDUST'S INTERPLANETARY EYE IS SET ON "MASTER-MIND" DE STRUCTO, THE SECRET "BIG BRAINS" OF A NEW INTERNATIONAL RACKETEERING MOB OPERATING ON THE EARTH . . DE STRUCTO HAS JUST COMPLETED PLANS FOR A GIGANTIC "TAKE-OVER".

WE'LL TAKE OVER THE WHOLE WORLD!

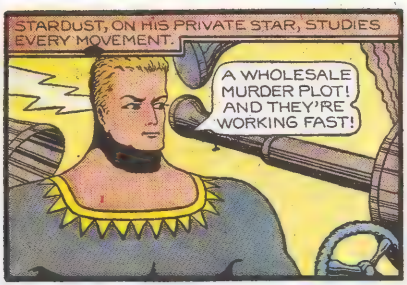
HE "WISES UP" HIS "TROOPERS" . . . . . .

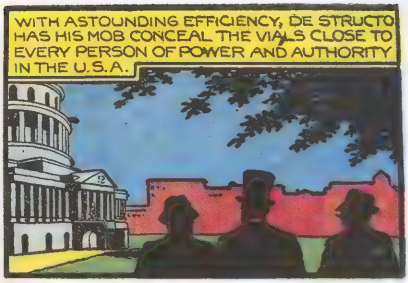
LISTEN, YOU PUNKS! THIS IS A SCIENTIFIC GRIFT, AND EVERYTHING MUST BE ACCURATE! WE'RE TAKING OVER THE U.S.A. FIRST, ON ACCOUNT OF ITS WEALTH! NOW HERE'S THE WAY WE'LL PULL THE TRICK . . .

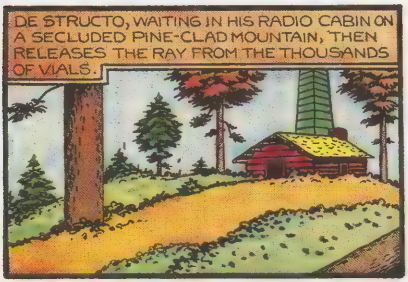
MY OXYGEN-DESTROYING RAY IS PERFECTED, AND WE'RE READY TO MAKE THE SET-UP FOR ITS USE! WE'LL DISTRIBUTE THE RAY IN AN INACTIVE STATE, AND THEN I'LL RELEASE THE RAY ACTION BY RADIO CONTROL FROM A CENTRAL POINT! **EVERY BIG SHOT IN AMERICA IS TO DIE BY SUFFOCATION, ALL AT THE SAME TIME!** WHEN THEY'RE OUT OF THE WAY, WE'LL GRAB CONTROL OF EVERYTHING!

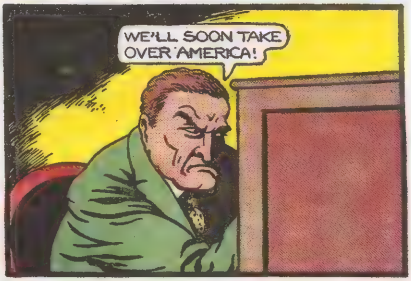
SOON, DE STRUCTO'S TROOPERS ARE SCATTERED ALL OVER AMERICA, EACH WITH VIALS CONTAINING THE INACTIVE RAY THAT WILL DESTROY OXYGEN WHEN MADE ACTIVE . . .

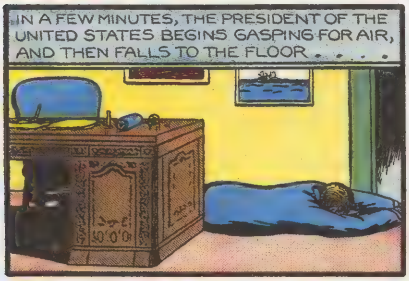
WE MUST PLACE THE VIALS SO THAT THEY POINT AT EXACTLY THE RIGHT AREAS!

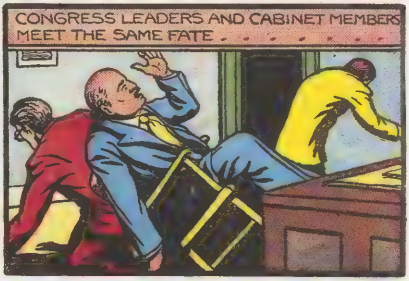

STARDUST, ON HIS PRIVATE STAR, STUDIES EVERY MOVEMENT.
A WHOLESALE MURDER PLOT! AND THEY'RE WORKING FAST!

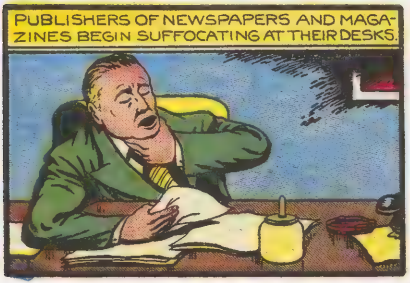

WITH ASTOUNDING EFFICIENCY, DE STRUCTO HAS HIS MOB CONCEAL THE VIALS CLOSE TO EVERY PERSON OF POWER AND AUTHORITY IN THE U.S.A.


DE STRUCTO, WAITING IN HIS RADIO CABIN ON A SECLUDED PINE-CLAD MOUNTAIN, THEN RELEASES THE RAY FROM THE THOUSANDS OF VIALS.


WE'LL SOON TAKE OVER AMERICA!


IN A FEW MINUTES, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES BEGINS GASPING FOR AIR, AND THEN FALLS TO THE FLOOR . . . .

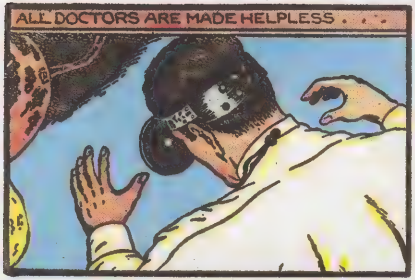

CONGRESS LEADERS AND CABINET MEMBERS MEET THE SAME FATE . . . . . .


PUBLISHERS OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES BEGIN SUFFOCATING AT THEIR DESKS.

MEMBERS OF THE F.B.I., THE SECRET SERVICE AND THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE ARE ALL ATTACKED BY THE RAY. . . . . .

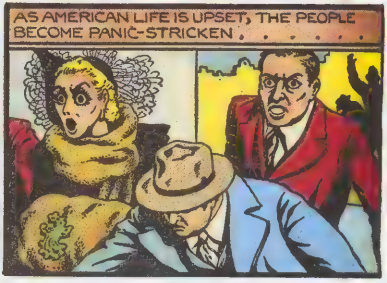
ALL BIG BANKERS' COLLAPSE . . . . . .

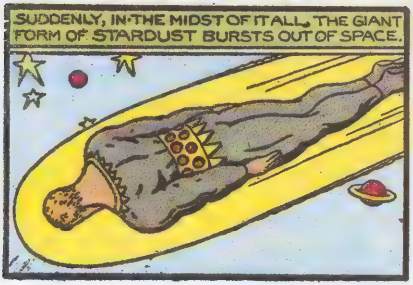
INDUSTRIAL LEADERS EVERYWHERE PASS INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS . . . . . .

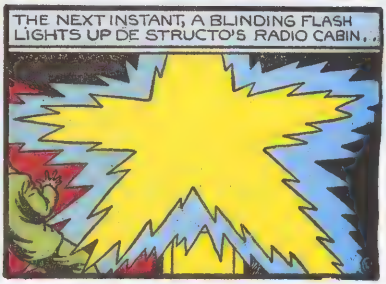

ALL DOCTORS ARE MADE HELPLESS . . .

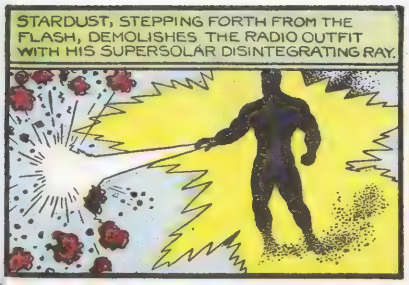
ARMY AND NAVY OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN ARE ESPECIALLY HARD HIT, AND DIE BY THE THOUSAND.

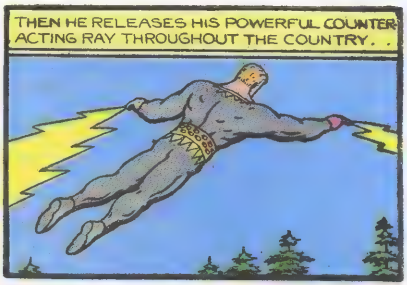
CITY AND STATE POLICE WORK IS DISRUPTED.

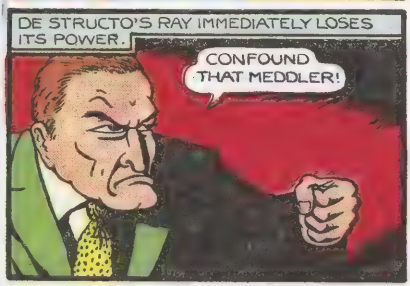

AS AMERICAN LIFE IS UPSET, THE PEOPLE BECOME PANIC-STRICKEN . . . . . .

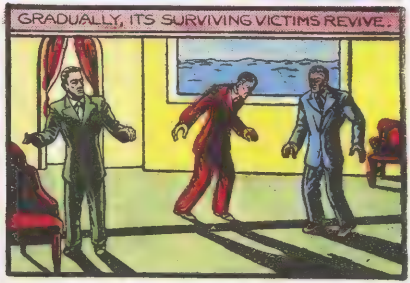

SUDDENLY, IN THE MIDST OF IT ALL, THE GIANT FORM OF STARDUST BURSTS OUT OF SPACE.

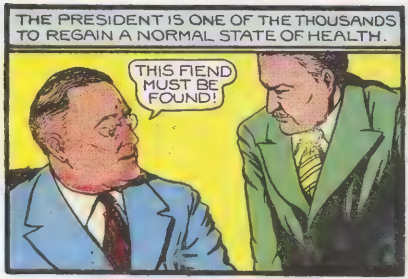

THE NEXT INSTANT, A BLINDING FLASH LIGHTS UP DE STRUCTO'S RADIO CABIN. .


STARDUST, STEPPING FORTH FROM THE FLASH, DEMOLISHES THE RADIO OUTFIT WITH HIS SUPERSOLAR DISINTEGRATING RAY.

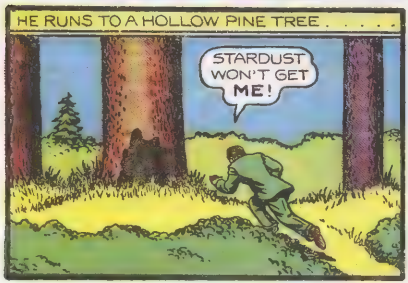

THEN HE RELEASES HIS POWERFUL COUNTER ACTING RAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. .

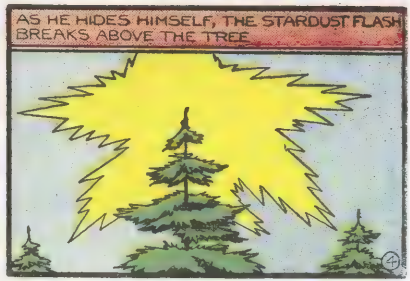

DE STRUCTO'S RAY IMMEDIATELY LOSES ITS POWER.
CONFOUND THAT MEDDLER!

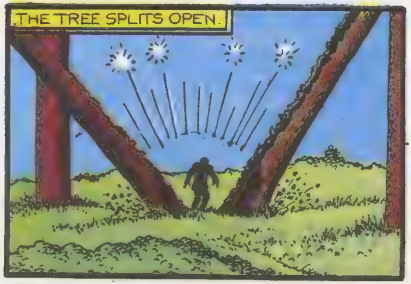

GRADUALLY, ITS SURVIVING VICTIMS REVIVE.

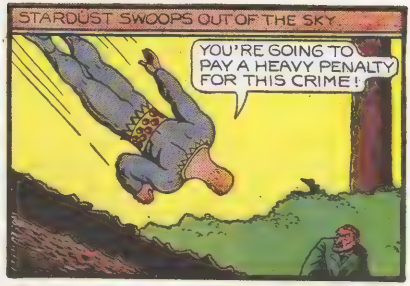

THE PRESIDENT IS ONE OF THE THOUSANDS TO REGAIN A NORMAL STATE OF HEALTH.
THIS FIEND MUST BE FOUND!

DE STRUCTO, NOW FILLED WITH FEAR, TRIES TO ESCAPE.
I'LL BE KILLED!

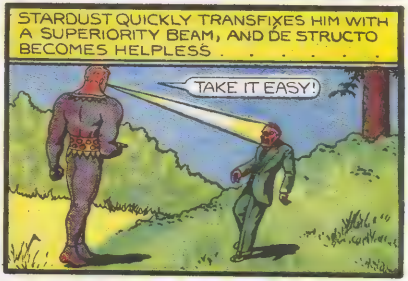

HE RUNS TO A HOLLOW PINE TREE . . . . .
STARDUST WON'T GET ME!

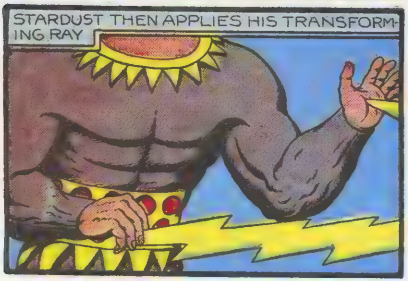

AS HE HIDES HIMSELF, THE STARDUST FLASH BREAKS ABOVE THE TREE

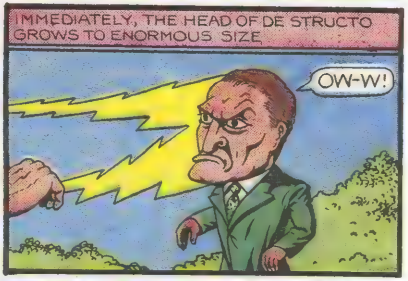

THE TREE SPLITS OPEN.

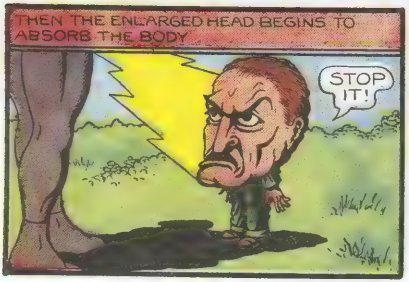

STARDUST SWOOPS OUT OF THE SKY.
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY A HEAVY PENALTY FOR THIS CRIME!

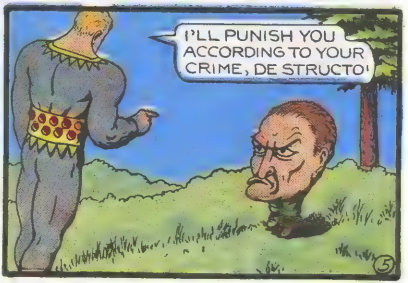
IN A DESPERATE AND MURDEROUS RAGE, DE STRUCTO RUSHES AT STARDUST.
I'LL KILL YOU, YOU BIG PALOOKA!

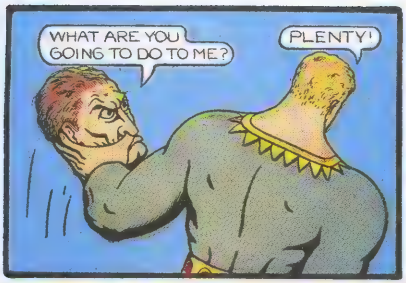

STARDUST QUICKLY TRANSFIXES HIM WITH A SUPERIORITY BEAM, AND DE STRUCTO BECOMES HELPLESS . . . . . .
TAKE IT EASY!

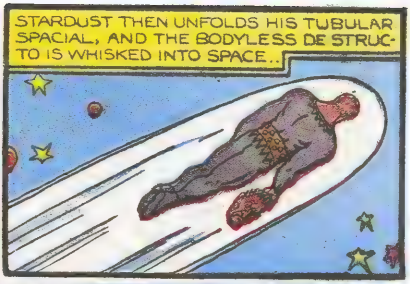

STARDUST THEN APPLIES HIS TRANSFORMING RAY

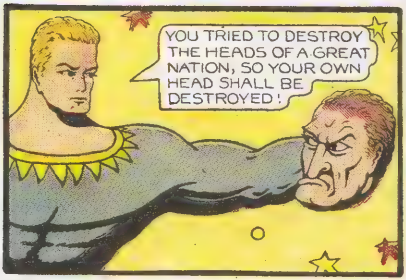

IMMEDIATELY, THE HEAD OF DE STRUCTO GROWS TO ENORMOUS SIZE.
OW-W!

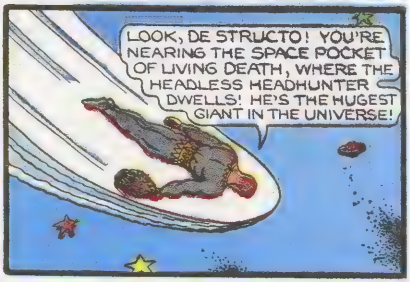

THEN THE ENLARGED HEAD BEGINS TO ABSORB THE BODY.
STOP IT!

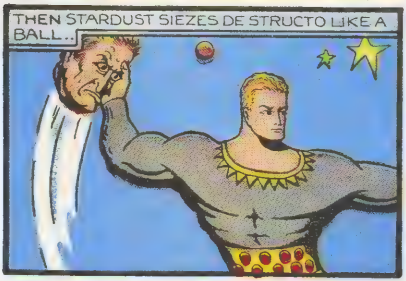

I'LL PUNISH YOU ACCORDING TO YOUR CRIME, DE STRUCTO!
5

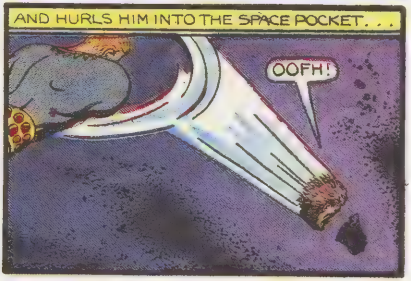

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO ME?
PLENTY!

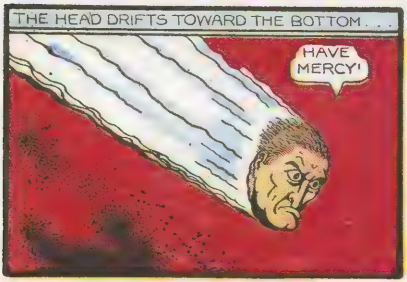

STARDUST THEN UNFOLDS HIS TUBULAR SPACIAL, AND THE BODYLESS DE STRUCTO IS WHISKED INTO SPACE..


YOU TRIED TO DESTROY THE HEADS OF A GREAT NATION, SO YOUR OWN HEAD SHALL BE DESTROYED!

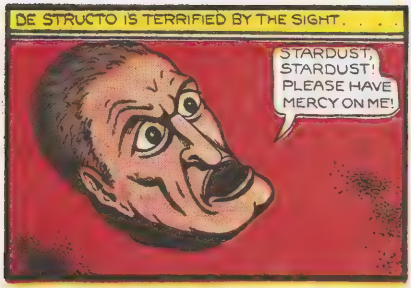

LOOK, DE STRUCTO! YOU'RE NEARING THE SPACE POCKET OF LIVING DEATH, WHERE THE HEADLESS HEADHUNTER DWELLS! HE'S THE HUGEST GIANT IN THE UNIVERSE!

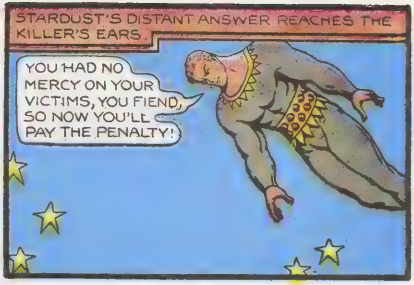

THEN STARDUST SIEZES DE STRUCTO LIKE A BALL..

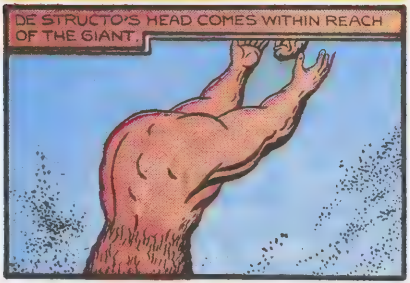

AND HURLS HIM INTO THE SPACE POCKET...
OOFH!

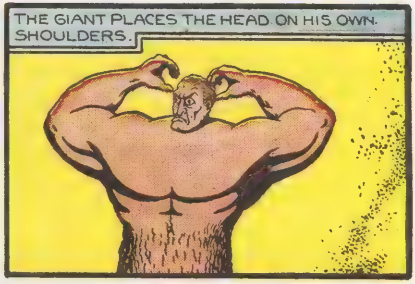

THE HEAD DRIFTS TOWARD THE BOTTOM...
HAVE MERCY!

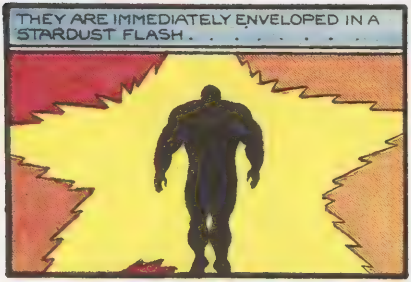
THE GIANT HEADHUNTER WAITS EAGERLY...
6

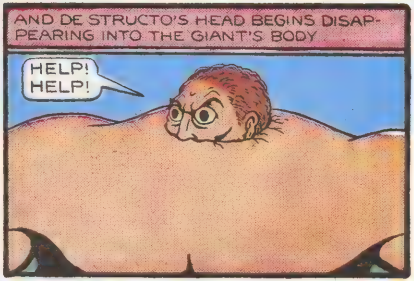

DE STRUCTO IS TERRIFIED BY THE SIGHT. . . .
STARDUST, STARDUST! PLEASE HAVE MERCY ON ME!

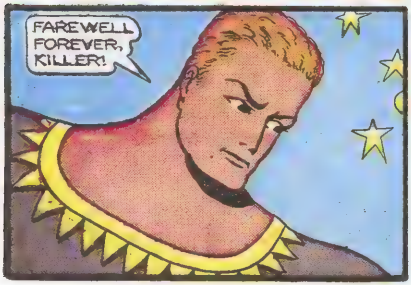

STARDUST'S DISTANT ANSWER REACHES THE KILLER'S EARS.
YOU HAD NO MERCY ON YOUR VICTIMS, YOU FIEND, SO NOW YOU'LL PAY THE PENALTY!

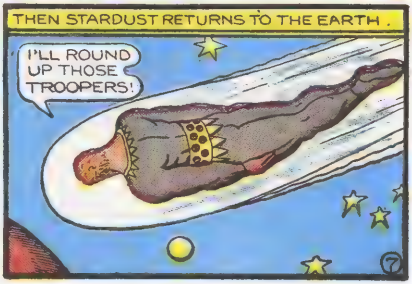

DE STRUCTO'S HEAD COMES WITHIN REACH OF THE GIANT.

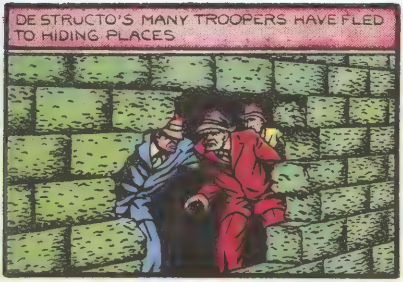

THE GIANT PLACES THE HEAD ON HIS OWN SHOULDERS.

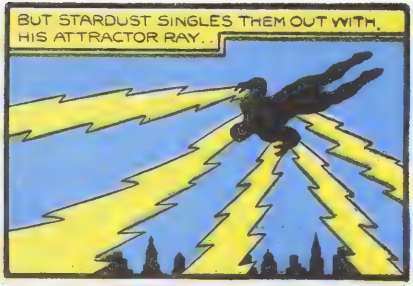

THEY ARE IMMEDIATELY ENVELOPED IN A STARDUST FLASH. . . . . .

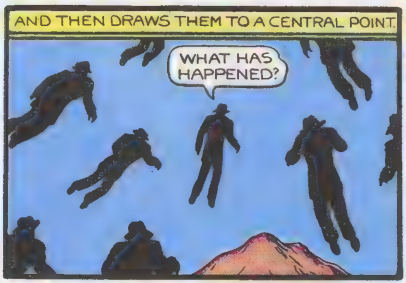

AND DE STRUCTO'S HEAD BEGINS DISAPPEARING INTO THE GIANT'S BODY
HELP! HELP!


FAREWELL FOREVER, KILLER!

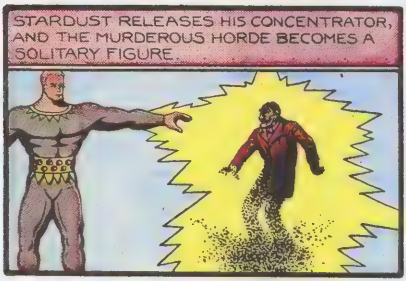

THEN STARDUST RETURNS TO THE EARTH.
I'LL ROUND UP THOSE TROOPERS!

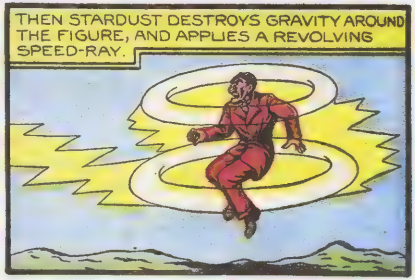

DESTRUCTO'S MANY TROOPERS HAVE FLED TO HIDING PLACES

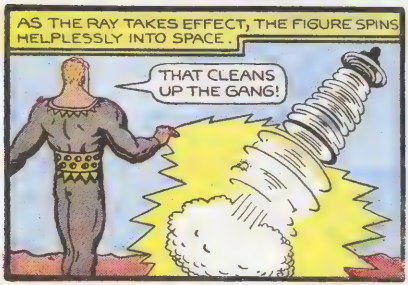

BUT STARDUST SINGLES THEM OUT WITH HIS ATTRACTOR RAY...

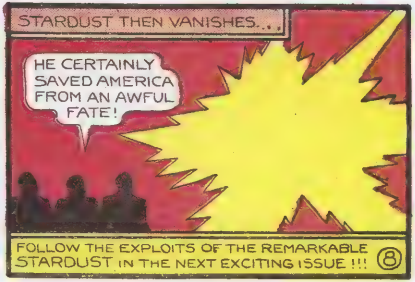

AND THEN DRAWS THEM TO A CENTRAL POINT.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

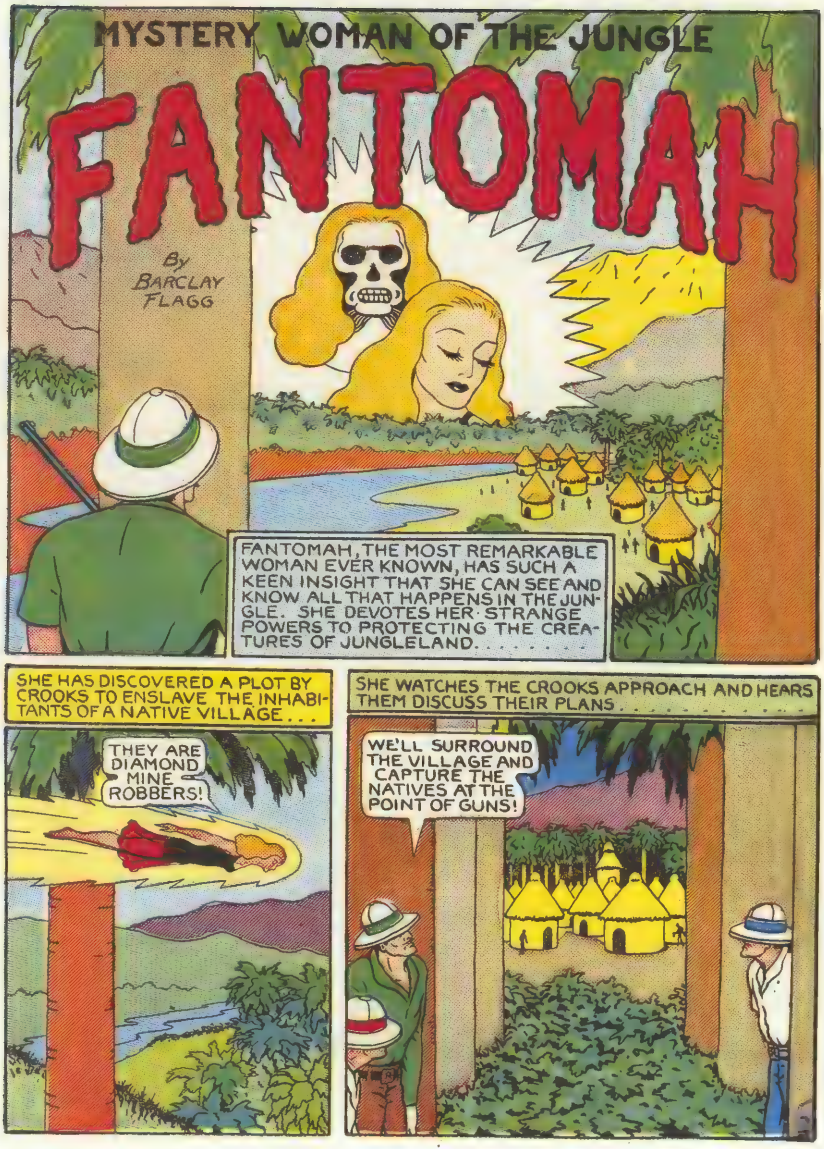
NONE OF YOU WILL ESCAPE! I'LL CONVERT YOU ALL INTO ONE PERSON!


STARDUST RELEASES HIS CONCENTRATOR, AND THE MURDEROUS HORDE BECOMES A SOLITARY FIGURE.


THEN STARDUST DESTROYS GRAVITY AROUND THE FIGURE, AND APPLIES A REVOLVING SPEED-RAY.

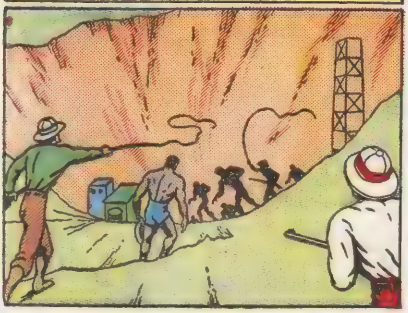

AS THE RAY TAKES EFFECT, THE FIGURE SPINS HELPLESSLY INTO SPACE.
THAT CLEANS UP THE GANG!


STARDUST THEN VANISHES...
HE CERTAINLY SAVED AMERICA FROM AN AWFUL FATE!
FOLLOW THE EXPLOITS OF THE REMARKABLE STARDUST IN THE NEXT EXCITING ISSUE !!!
8

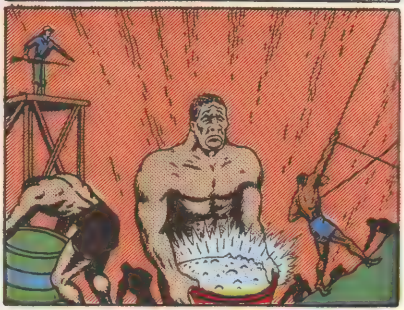

MYSTERY WOMAN OF THE JUNGLE
FANTOMAH
By BARCLAY FLAGG
FANTOMAH, THE MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN EVER KNOWN, HAS SUCH A KEEN INSIGHT THAT SHE CAN SEE AND KNOW ALL THAT HAPPENS IN THE JUNGLE. SHE DEVOTES HER STRANGE POWERS TO PROTECTING THE CREATURES OF JUNGLELAND. . . . . .
SHE HAS DISCOVERED A PLOT BY CROOKS TO ENSLAVE THE INHABITANTS OF A NATIVE VILLAGE . . .
THEY ARE DIAMOND MINE ROBBERS!
SHE WATCHES THE CROOKS APPROACH AND HEARS THEM DISCUSS THEIR PLANS . . . . . .
WE'LL SURROUND THE VILLAGE AND CAPTURE THE NATIVES AT THE POINT OF GUNS!

FANTOMAH'S THOUGHT-DETECTING POWER ENABLES HER TO UNDERSTAND . . .
THEY'RE GOING TO USE THE NATIVES TO WORK THE DIAMOND MINE THEY ARE ROBBING!
THE CROOKS HAVE NOW SURROUNDED THE QUIET VILLAGE . . .
SUDDENLY THEY RUSH UPON THE SURPRISED NATIVES . . . .
SOME OF THE NATIVES TRY TO FLEE, AND ARE SHOT DOWN IN THEIR TRACKS . .
THE REST SURRENDER . .
WE WANT ONLY THE MEN!
THEY ARE SOON HERDED TOGETHER AND DRIVEN AWAY . . . . . .
THEY ARE MARCHED DOWN A TRAIL THROUGH THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE . . .
A HUSKY BUNCH! WE OUGHT TO GET A LOT OF WORK OUT OF THEM!
THEY REACH THE EDGE OF THE GRAND CHASM, WITH THE DIAMOND MINE BELOW.
WE MUST GET THESE STONES OUT FAST, OR WE'LL BE DISCOVERED!
2

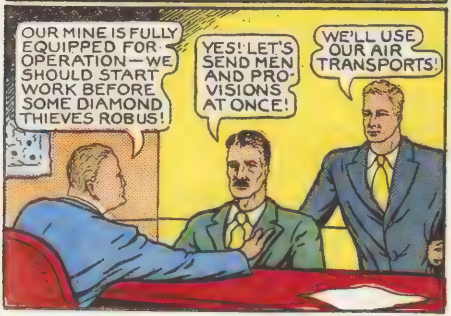
AS THEY REACH THE MINE, EACH NATIVE IS GIVEN A JOB TO DO AND THEN DRIVEN TO WORK UNDER THE LASH OF THE WHIP. . . .



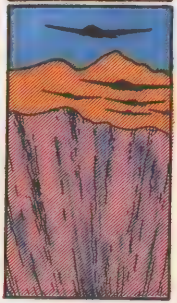
IN THE TERRIFIC HEAT OF THE CHASM, THEY ARE FORCED TO LABOR AT THEIR TOP SPEED TO GET OUT THE DIAMONDS..



MEANWHILE, IN THE CENTRAL OFFICES OF THE REAL OWNERS OF THE MINE, A CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE . . . . . .



SOON, FROM THE RIM OF THE CHASM, APPEAR SEVERAL COMPANY PLANES.

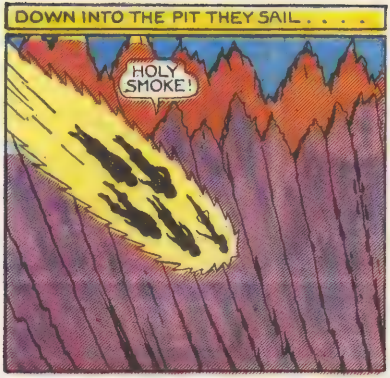


THE CROOKS RAVE.

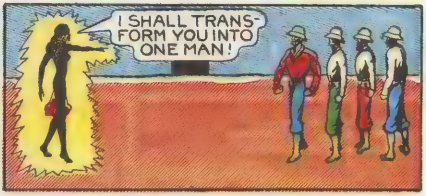
AS THE PLANES COME NEAR!.

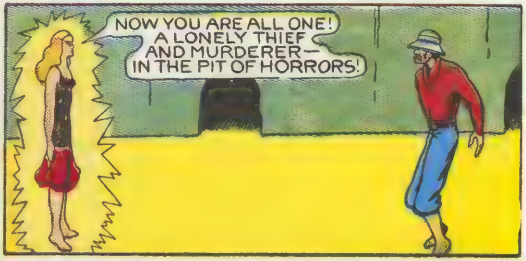
BUT THE NATIVES, HAVING SEEN A CHANCE TO ESCAPE, DISAPPEAR BACK INTO THE JUNGLE..

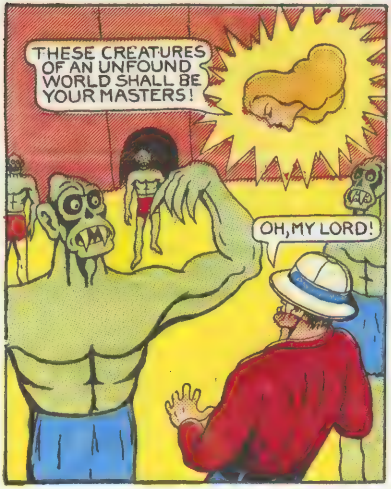
FANTOMAH SUDDENLY APPEARS ABOVE THE ENRAGED CROOKS . . . . . .
STOP, YOU MURDERERS!
WHO IS SHE?
BLAST HER TO SHREDS!
BANG! BANG! BANG!
YOU CANNOT HARM FANTOMAH!
FANTOMAH CHANGES FORM . . . . . .
NOW YOU SHALL FEEL THE SECRET POWER OF THE JUNGLE!
NEVER MIND HER! LET'S GET THOSE NATIVES BACK!
BUT THE SWIFT NATIVES HAVE PLUNGED DEEP INTO THE JUNGLE, AND ARE SAFE.
AS THE CROOKS GO IN PURSUIT, A FLASH BLINDS THEM . .
WHAT'S THAT?
FANTOMAH SUDDENLY WHISKS THEM INTO THE AIR . . . . . .
YOU ARE GOING TO THE SECRET PIT OF JUNGLE HORRORS!
4

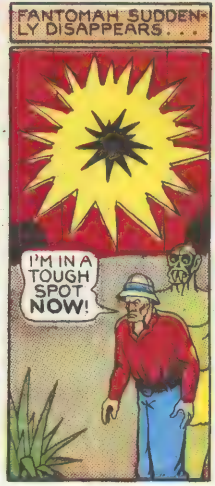

DOWN INTO THE PIT THEY SAIL . . . .
HOLY SMOKE!

SHE DEPOSITS THEM ON THE GROUND . . .


I SHALL TRANS-FORM YOU INTO ONE MAN!


NOW YOU ARE ALL ONE! A LONELY THIEF AND MURDERER— IN THE PIT OF HORRORS!


THESE CREATURES OF AN UNFOUND WORLD SHALL BE YOUR MASTERS!
OH, MY LORD!


FANTOMAH SUDDEN-LY DISAPPEARS . . .
I'M IN A TOUGH SPOT NOW!

THERE'S A TRAIL! IT MAY LEAD ME OUT OF HERE!

HE MAKES A DASH FOR THE TRAIL . . .
HIS STRANGE MASTERS DO NOT TRY TO STOP HIM . . . .
I'LL SOON BE OUT OF HERE!
BUT, AS HE MAKES A TURN, HE FINDS IT IS A DEAD-END TRAIL . . . . . .
GOOD LORD!
ONE OF THE STRANGE CREATURES GIVES A COMMAND . . . .
GRUCKO!
SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND THE PRISONER, APPEARS A GIGANTIC PAW . . .
THE MAN, IN HIS FRIGHT, LOSES HIS BALANCE . . . .
OH-H!
JUST AS HE IS ABOUT TO CRASH, A SMALL WHIRLWIND APPEARS AND BREAKS HIS FALL.
THE WIND BLOWS HIM INTO A CAVE . . . . .
HE SOON FINDS HIMSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WHITE COBRA CAVERN . . . .
THIS IS THE END OF ME!
6

FANTOMAH APPEARS AGAIN . . . . .

IN CIVILIZATION, MURDERERS DIE BY ELECTRICITY OR BY GAS OR BY HANGING, BUT IN THE JUNGLE, THEY DIE BY THE FORCES OF NATURE!

THE DEADLY COBRAS CLOSE IN . . . . . .

OH! OH! OH!

AFTER THEY STRIKE, FANTOMAH WHISKS HIM OUT OF THE CAVE . . . . . .

SHE SUSPENDS HIM IN THE AIR . . . . . .

ONE OF THE MASTERS OF THE PIT GIVES AN ORDER.

MOYAH!

A GREAT CLAW COMES OUT OF THE SIDE OF THE PIT . . .

THE BODY OF THE MAN IS SIEZED . . . . . .

AND DRAWN INTO THE ROCKY WALL, TO DISAPPEAR FOREVER . . . . .

MEANWHILE, THE JUNGLE HAS BECOME NORMAL AND THE NATIVE VILLAGE IS AT PEACE . .

FANTOMAH RETURNS TO HER SECRET OBSERVATORY . . . . . .

ANOTHER THRILLING ADVENTURE WITH FANTOMA WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE . . . . .

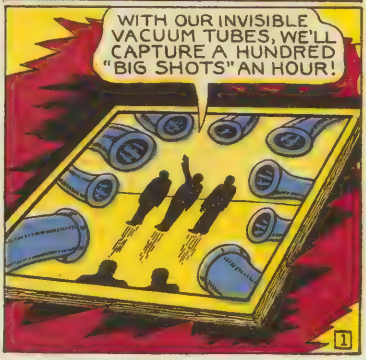
THE SUPER WIZARD STARDUST

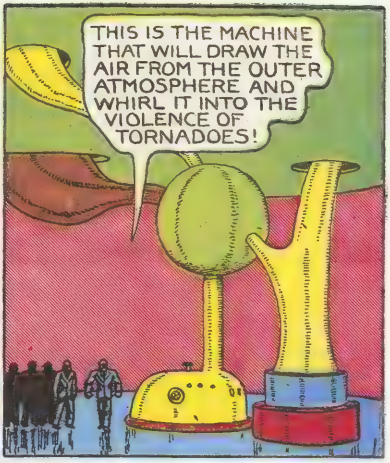
BY FLETCHER HANKS

STARDUST, THE MOST REMARKABLE MAN WHO EVER LIVED AND MASTER OF INTERPLANETARY SCIENCE, IS DEVOTING HIS SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE AND POWERS TO BUSTING CRIME ON THE PLANETS..

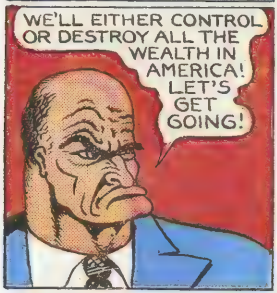
AFTER STUDYING HIS CRIME-DETECTING SCOPES, STARDUST LEARNS THAT A DANGEROUS GROUP OF CRIME WIZARDS IS PLANNING A WHOLESALE KIDNAPPING OF LEADING AMERICANS.....

STARDUST'S DICTAPHONIC VIEW PLATES REVEAL STARTLING FACTS.



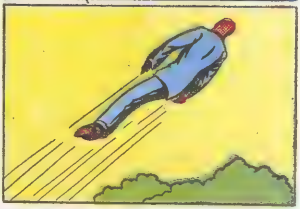


THE BRAINS OF THE "MIRACLE MEN" IS THE TERRIBLE "WOLF-EYE"...



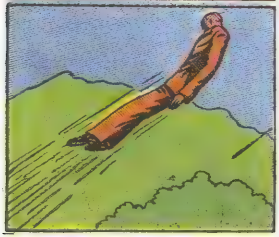
HENRY LORD, THE MOTOR KING, WALKS OUT OF HIS HOUSE...

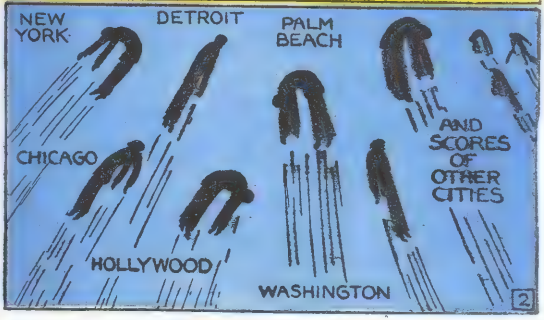
A POWERFUL, INVISIBLE VACUUM TUBE SUDDENLY DRAWS HIM OUT OF SIGHT...

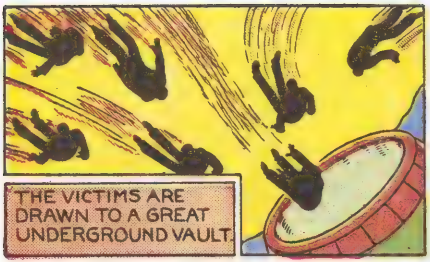


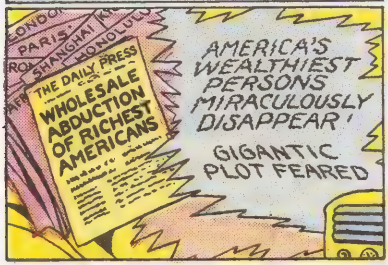
IN RAPID SUCCESSION, ALL OVER AMERICA, THE NATION'S RICHEST CITIZENS BECOME VICTIMS OF THE "MIRACLE MEN" AND THE INVISIBLE VACUUM...

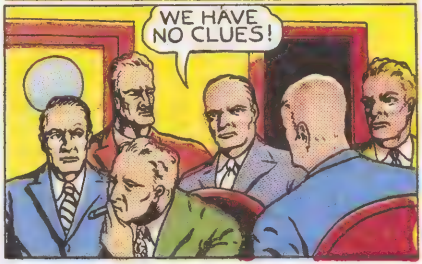
JOHN RANCAB, WEALTHY FINANCIER, DISAPPEARS IN THE SAME MANNER...

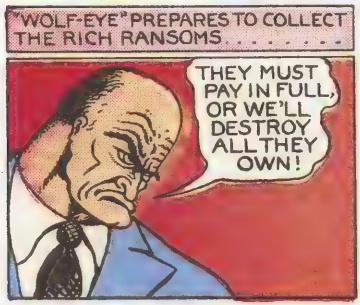




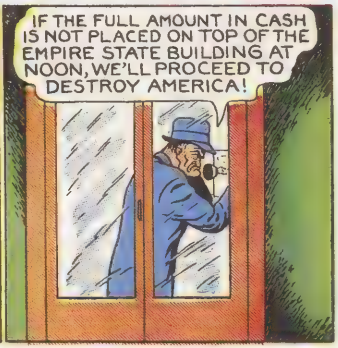


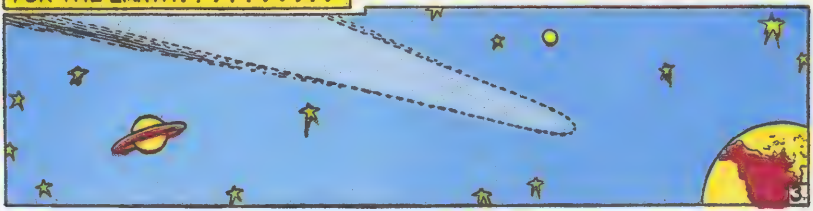






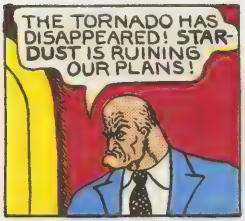
FROM A PUBLIC 'PHONE BOOTH, "WOLF-EYE" CALLS THE F.B.I. OFFICE AND STUNS THE G-MEN WITH HIS MESSAGE.

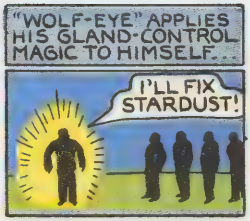




THE TOP OF THE EMPIRE STATE BECOMES CROWDED WITH G-MEN.....
THEY HAVE DECIDED NOT TO LET THE RANSOMS BE PAID..
IT'S ALMOST NOON—LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
"WOLF-EYE" IS WATCHING THROUGH HIS LONG-RANGE PERISCOPE...
THE G-MEN HAVE FAILED TO BRING THE MONEY! TURN LOOSE OUR DEATH RAYS AND KILL THEM ALL!
THE "MIRACLE MEN" ADJUST THEIR DEATH-RAY GUNS..
THE POWERFUL RAYS FLASH OUT AS THE GANG TRIES TO GET THE FOCUS
THEN, WITH A BLINDING BRILLIANCE, ANOTHER FLASH INTERVENES.....
IT'S STARDUST!
STARDUST USES HIS BOOMERANG RAY, AND THE OPERATORS OF THE DEATH-RAY GUNS ARE SOON DESTROYED BY THEIR OWN MECHANISM.....
WE'VE BEEN CROSSED UP! START THE TORNADOES RIGHT AWAY, AND HEAD THEM FOR NEW YORK!
THE BIG TORNADO MACHINE IS SET IN ACTION..
4

A GREAT ROAR IS SUDDENLY HEARD OVER THE NEARBY MOUNTAINS, AND TREES WHIRL INTO THE AIR . . . .
THE GIGANTIC WHIRL OF ARTIFICIAL WIND BLOWS TOWARD NEW YORK AT AMAZING SPEED . . . . . .
PEOPLE ARE DAZED BY THE STRANGE SIGHT . . .
WHAT IS IT?
BUT BEFORE THEY CAN BECOME PANIC-STRICKEN, THEY CATCH SIGHT OF STARDUST IN THE SKY . . . .
STARDUST DARTS INTO THE HEART OF THE BIG WHIRL.
HIS BRILLIANT FLASH LIGHTS THE CLOUD..
AS HE USES HIS RARIFYING BEAM, THE WHIRL LOSES ITS VIOLENCE . . . .
5


THE TORNADO HAS DISAPPEARED! STARDUST IS RUINING OUR PLANS!

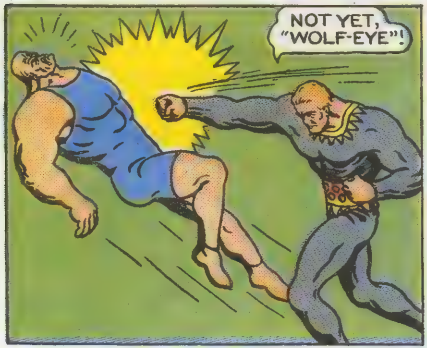

"WOLF-EYE" APPLIES HIS GLAND-CONTROL MAGIC TO HIMSELF...
I'LL FIX STARDUST!

HE IMMEDIATELY GROWS TO GIGANTIC SIZE...
I HOPE HE COMES HERE!

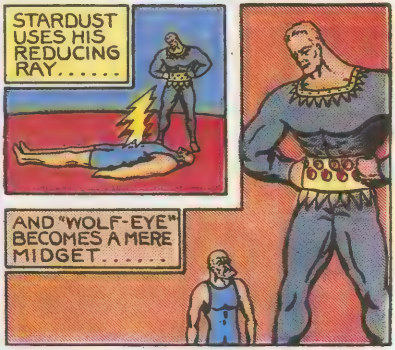
IN THE NEXT INSTANT, A FLASH VIBRATES THE ROOM, AND FUSING RAYS DESTROY THE "MIRACLE MEN'S" ENTIRE EQUIPMENT....

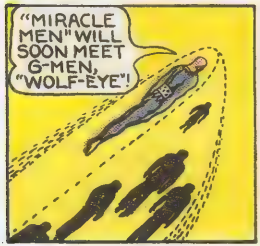
COME ON, "WOLF-EYE"! THE G-MEN WANT YOU AND YOUR GANG!

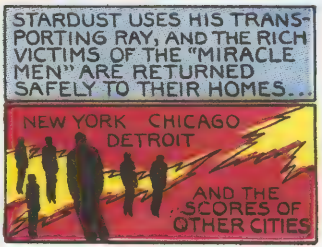
YOU DIRTY——! I'LL KILL YOU!


NOT YET, "WOLF-EYE"!

STARDUST USES HIS REDUCING RAY.....


AND "WOLF-EYE" BECOMES A MERE MIDGET.....


"MIRACLE MEN" WILL SOON MEET G-MEN, "WOLF-EYE"!


STARDUST USES HIS TRANSPORTING RAY, AND THE RICH VICTIMS OF THE "MIRACLE MEN" ARE RETURNED SAFELY TO THEIR HOMES...
NEW YORK
CHICAGO
DETROIT
AND THE SCORES OF OTHER CITIES

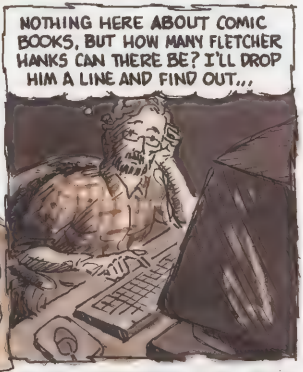
THERE HE GOES! HE SAVED AMERICA!
6
WATCH THE SUPER WIZARD IN A FIGHT THRILLER IN THE AIR!

UTTER, UTTER GENIUS.
THIS STUFF IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND. NOBODY SAVED THEM 'CAUSE HANKS WORKED ON SECOND-RATE CHARACTERS FOR THIRD-RATE PUBLISHERS.
THERE HE GOES! HE SAVED AMERICA!
NOBODY KNOWS A THING ABOUT FLETCHER HANKS.

BUT, HEY, THIS STARDUST STORY IS ON-LINE. MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HANKS ON-LINE, TOO.
F...L...E... T...C... H...E...R ... H... A... N...
PAUL... DID YOU HANG UP THAT CURTAIN, YET?
YEAH, MOM, SURE.

HERE WE GO... FLETCHER HANKS! HUH?! WW I PILOT?... ...CHINA?!... MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE STOPPED DOING COMICS IN 1941.
HMM... HERE'S AN E-MAIL ADDRESS...

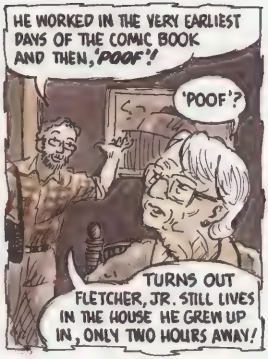
FLETCHER HANKS IS STILL ALIVE!!

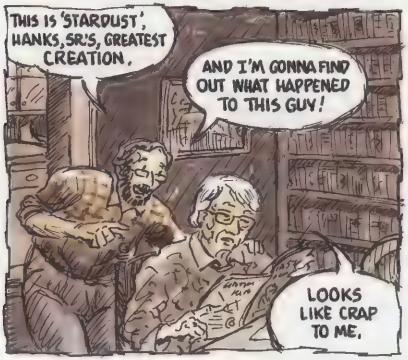

NOTHING HERE ABOUT COMIC BOOKS, BUT HOW MANY FLETCHER HANKS CAN THERE BE? I'LL DROP HIM A LINE AND FIND OUT...

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
FLETCHER HANKS?
BY PAUL KARASIK

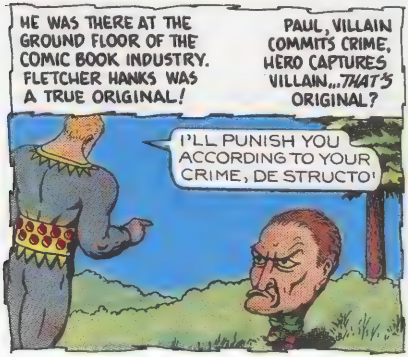
HEY, THERE. GOTTA GO, MOM!
YOU JUST GOT HERE.
CAN I BORROW YOUR CAR TO GO INTERVIEW FLETCHER HANKS, JR.?

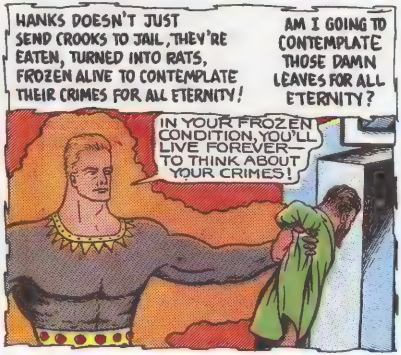
WHAT ABOUT THE LAWN? WHO?
HIS DAD MAY BE THE FLETCHER HANKS! ...THE MISSING CARTOONIST!
I THOUGHT YOU CAME TO HELP ME RAKE THOSE LEAVES.


HE WORKED IN THE VERY EARLIEST DAYS OF THE COMIC BOOK AND THEN, 'POOF'!
'POOF'?
TURNS OUT FLETCHER, JR. STILL LIVES IN THE HOUSE HE GREW UP IN, ONLY TWO HOURS AWAY!


THIS IS 'STARDUST', HANKS, SR.'S, GREATEST CREATION.
AND I'M GONNA FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS GUY!
LOOKS LIKE CRAP TO ME.

CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S A VISIONARY GENIUS?
NO.
THEN THEY ARE BLINDFOLDED . . . .


HE WAS THERE AT THE GROUND FLOOR OF THE COMIC BOOK INDUSTRY. FLETCHER HANKS WAS A TRUE ORIGINAL!
PAUL, VILLAIN COMMITS CRIME, HERO CAPTURES VILLAIN...THAT'S ORIGINAL?
I'LL PUNISH YOU ACCORDING TO YOUR CRIME, DE STRUCTO!

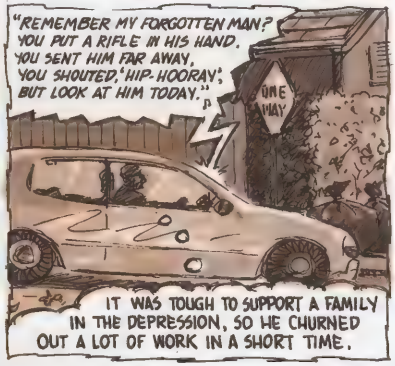

HANKS DOESN'T JUST SEND CROOKS TO JAIL, THEY'RE EATEN, TURNED INTO RATS, FROZEN ALIVE TO CONTEMPLATE THEIR CRIMES FOR ALL ETERNITY!
AM I GOING TO CONTEMPLATE THOSE DAMN LEAVES FOR ALL ETERNITY?
IN YOUR FROZEN CONDITION, YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER— TO THINK ABOUT YOUR CRIMES!

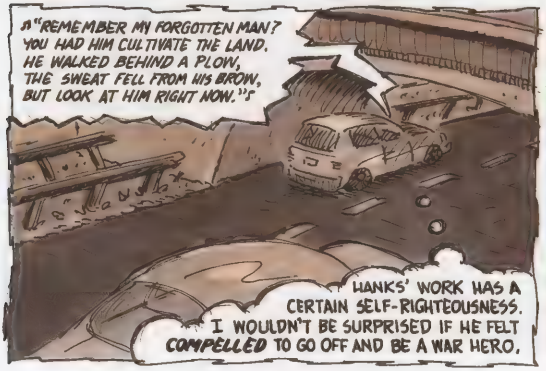
HIS WORK IS HARSH AND NAIVE, UGLY AND BEAUTIFUL, LOUD AND SILENT AS A TOMB.
FANTASTIC NO. 5 PAGE 2
FANTASTIC NO. 5 PAGE 3
FANTASTIC NO. 5 PAGE 4
FANTASTIC NO. 5 PAGE 4
ALL AT THE SAME TIME, ALL IN THE SAME PANEL,
...O-KAAAY...
MOTHER, FLETCHER IS ONE OF THE GREATEST CARTOONISTS OF THE 20th CENTURY!
WHY DIDN'T I THROW OUT YOUR COMIC BOOK COLLECTION LIKE EVERY OTHER MOTHER IN AMERICA?
'CAUSE I WOULDA KILLED YA!
GOOD LUCK, SHERLOCK.
WONDER IF HE'S GOT SOME MINT COPIES OF THOSE COMIC BOOKS FILED AWAY SOMEWHERE?
HE'S GOTTA HAVE ORIGINAL ART LYING AROUND, DID I BRING MY CHECKBOOK? AT LEAST I'LL GET AN ARTICLE OUTTA THIS:
"FLETCHER HANKS--MYSTERY SOLVED!"-BY PAUL KARASIK
...OR A NEW YORKER PIECE: "MR. HANKS, I PRESUME?"
-A PROFILE BY PAUL KARASIK ...OR MAYBE A BOOK...
"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
"AND THEY SAY SHE'S A-LUCKY SHE'S A STAR, BUT SHE CRIES, CRIES, CRIES IN HER LONELY HEART..."

1930'S GREAT DEPRESSION SONGS

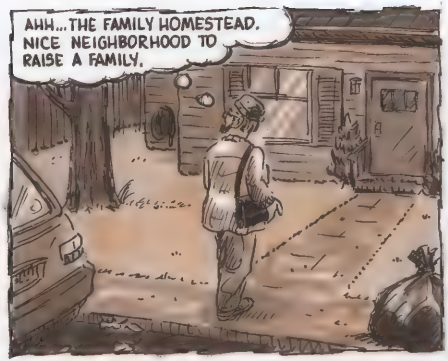
♪♪"I DON'T KNOW IF I DESERVE A BIT OF SYMPATHY, SAVE YOUR SYMPATHY. THAT'S ALRIGHT WITH ME."♪
WHAT AM I, NUTS? EVEN IF I DO FIND OUT ABOUT HANKS...WHO CARES?

♫"I WAS SATISFIED TO DRIFT ALONG FROM DAY TO DAY. 'TIL YOU CAME AND TOOK MY MAN AWAY."♪♪
I CARE.

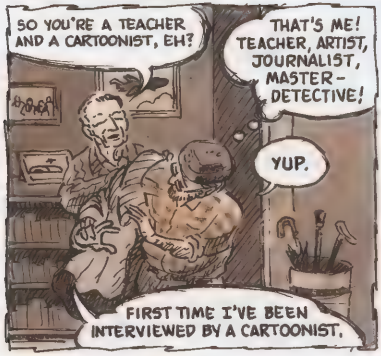

"REMEMBER MY FORGOTTEN MAN? YOU PUT A RIFLE IN HIS HAND. YOU SENT HIM FAR AWAY, YOU SHOUTED, 'HIP-HOORAY'; BUT LOOK AT HIM TODAY."♫
ONE WAY
IT WAS TOUGH TO SUPPORT A FAMILY IN THE DEPRESSION, SO HE CHURNED OUT A LOT OF WORK IN A SHORT TIME.


♫"REMEMBER MY FORGOTTEN MAN? YOU HAD HIM CULTIVATE THE LAND. HE WALKED BEHIND A PLOW, THE SWEAT FELL FROM HIS BROW, BUT LOOK AT HIM RIGHT NOW."♪
HANKS' WORK HAS A CERTAIN SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS. I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE FELT COMPELLED TO GO OFF AND BE A WAR HERO.

SO 1941 ROLLS AROUND AND OFF HE GOES TO FIGHT THE AXIS...MAKES SENSE.
♫"FORGETTING HIM, YOU SEE, MEANS YOU'RE FORGETTING ME. LIKE MY FORGOTTEN MAN!"♫


AHH... THE FAMILY HOMESTEAD. NICE NEIGHBORHOOD TO RAISE A FAMILY.

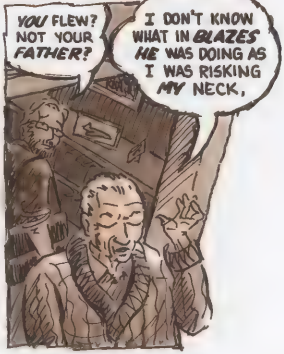
FLETCHER?
NICE TO MEET YOU, PAUL. EVERYONE CALLS ME 'CHRISTY'.
BINGO! ONE OF HANKS' PEN-NAMES WAS 'HANK CHRISTY'!


SO YOU'RE A TEACHER AND A CARTOONIST, EH?
THAT'S ME! TEACHER, ARTIST, JOURNALIST, MASTER-DETECTIVE!
YUP.
FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY A CARTOONIST.

CUPPA COFFEE?
LOOK AT THESE PLANES. THIS GUY MUST WORSHIP HIS DAD!
THAT'S A C-47. KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PLANES?

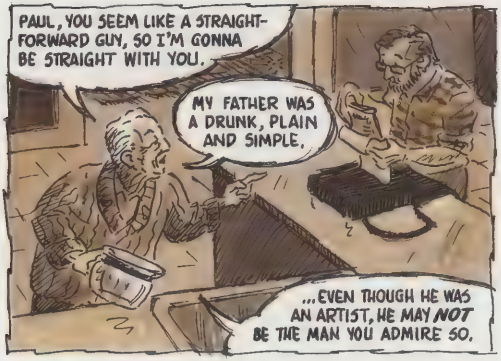
NOT MUCH. THE FOOD SERVICE GETS WORSE AND WORSE.
NOT A COMIC IN SIGHT!
THE C-47 WAS A GOOD PLANE. LIGHT. VERSATILE. PERFECT FOR FLYING THE HUMP.

THE WHAT?
THE HUMP.
WE FLEW SUPPLIES TO CHAING KAI-SHEK OVER THE HIMALAYAS, 'THE HUMP.'

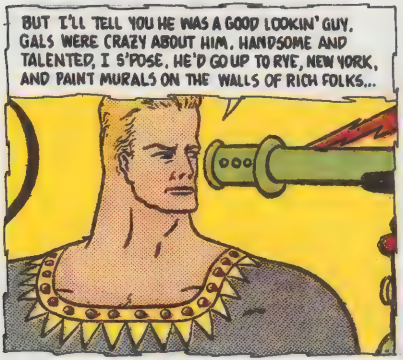

YOU FLEW? NOT YOUR FATHER?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IN BLAZES HE WAS DOING AS I WAS RISKING MY NECK.

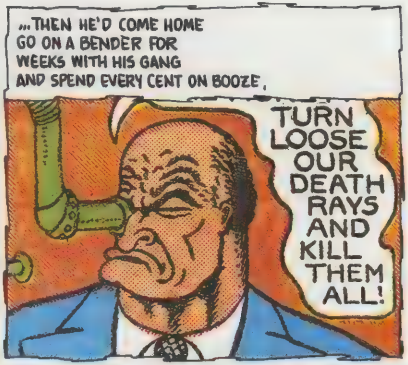
I FLEW 347 MISSONS. ONE OF THE FEW TO MAKE THAT CLAIM. IT WAS SOME ROUGH FLYING. MAYBE THE MOST HAZARDOUS IN THE WORLD.
WE HAD TO FLY AT NIGHT AND IN LOUSY WEATHER SO'S THAT WE WOULDN'T BE SHOT DOWN.
WAIT. IT WAS YOU WHO FLEW DURING THE WAR? MY FLETCHER HANKS SIMPLY STOPPED DOING COMICS AROUND 1941. I FIGURED MAYBE HE GOT DRAFTED.
HELL WITH THE DRAFT I SIGNED UP WITH CNAC TO GO OVER TO CHINA IN '43.
AS I SAID IN MY E-MAIL, MY DAD, FLETCHER HANKS, SR., WAS AN ARTIST...
...BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM DOING FUNNYBOOKS.
THE PEN-NAME... THE NICKNAME... THE TIMELINE...
IT MUST BE HIS DAD.
WELL, WHAT DID HE DO?
NOT MUCH...
HE LEFT HOME WHEN I WAS 10. COFFEE?
Good to the last chap

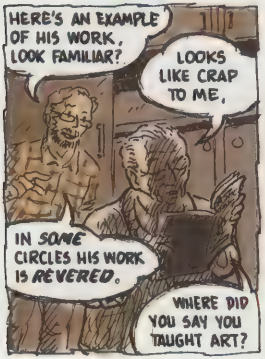
>heh< BY THE TIME I WAS 7 HE HAD ME MAKIN' HIS HOME BREW. HE'D SEND ME OUT FOR A CAN OF BLUE RIBBON BEER MIX.
MIX IT UP, ADD THE SUGAR.
POP IN 3 RAISINS PER BOTTLE.
THEN CAP IT AND LET 'ER SIT.
'COURSE I HAD TO HIDE IT SO'S THEY WOULDN'T DRINK IT BEFORE IT WAS FULLY FERMENTED.
ONE TIME HE AND HIS DRUNK PALS ASKED ME WHERE I HID IT. HE WENT AFTER ME SO I HAD TO TELL'EM: IN THE CELLAR ...UNDER THE COAL CHUTE.
THEY WENT DOWN THERE ON HANDS AND KNEES DIGGIN' IN THAT COAL. NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT! WHAT A MESS!
THEY WERE COVERED IN BLACK COAL DUST, LAYIN' IN THAT COAL DRINKIN' BREW! -Heh, heh-
AND YOUR DAD WAS ONE OF THEM?
THE RING-LEADER.
THE RING-LEADER.

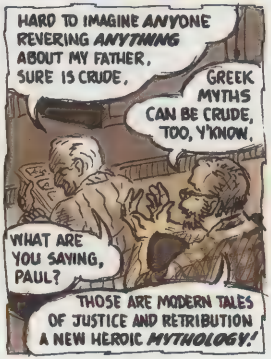

PAUL, YOU SEEM LIKE A STRAIGHT-FORWARD GUY, SO I'M GONNA BE STRAIGHT WITH YOU.
MY FATHER WAS A DRUNK, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
...EVEN THOUGH HE WAS AN ARTIST, HE MAY *NOT* BE THE MAN YOU ADMIRE SO.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOS OF HIM?
HA, HA, HA. NO.


BUT I'LL TELL YOU HE WAS A GOOD LOOKIN' GUY. GALS WERE CRAZY ABOUT HIM. HANDSOME AND TALENTED, I S'POSE. HE'D GO UP TO RYE, NEW YORK, AND PAINT MURALS ON THE WALLS OF RICH FOLKS...


...THEN HE'D COME HOME GO ON A BENDER FOR WEEKS WITH HIS GANG AND SPEND EVERY CENT ON BOOZE.
TURN LOOSE OUR DEATH RAYS AND KILL THEM ALL!

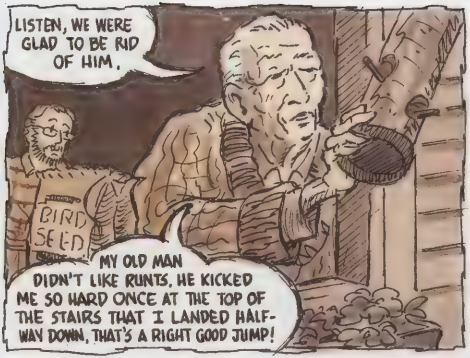

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF HIS WORK. LOOK FAMILIAR?
LOOKS LIKE CRAP TO ME.
IN *SOME* CIRCLES HIS WORK IS *REVERED*.
WHERE DID YOU SAY YOU TAUGHT ART?


HARD TO IMAGINE *ANYONE* REVERING *ANYTHING* ABOUT MY FATHER. SURE IS CRUDE.
GREEK MYTHS CAN BE CRUDE, TOO, Y'KNOW.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PAUL?
THOSE ARE MODERN TALES OF JUSTICE AND RETRIBUTION A NEW HEROIC *MYTHOLOGY!*

FANTASTIC COMICS
FWAP!

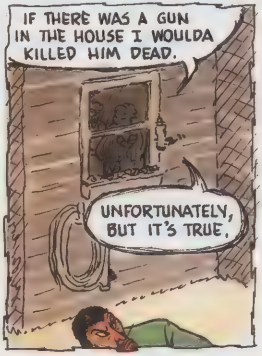
SO HE NEVER DID ANY... COMICS?
OH, SURE I SAW HIS COMICS. JUST NEVER KNEW HE DID ANY COMIC-BOOKS.
CHRISTY, WHAT COMICS DID YOU SEE?
WELL, AS I RECALL, HE DID A COMIC STRIP.
A COMIC STRIP? WAS IT PUBLISHED?... WHEN? ...WHAT PAPER?
OH, IT WAS NEVER PUBLISHED. HE DID A KIND OF ONGOING STRIP ABOUT A FAMILY... ABOUT OUR FAMILY, I GUESS. HE DID A WHOLE STACK OF 'EM, THIS HIGH.
HOO-HAH!! WHERE ARE THEY?
OH, THAT JUNK'S GONE. LONG GONE, WHEN HE LEFT, MOTHER CLEARED OUT ALL HIS STUFF.
WHY WOULD WE KEEP THAT JUNK?
MAY I USE THE BATHROOM?

click
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
Found

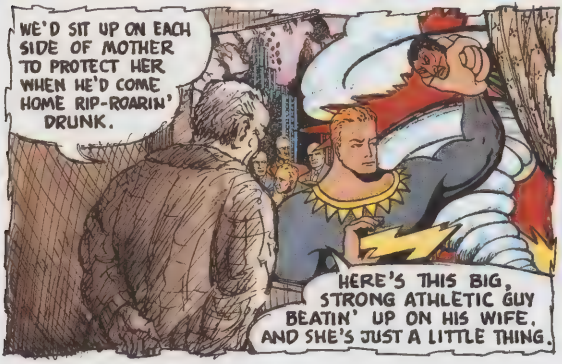

LISTEN, WE WERE GLAD TO BE RID OF HIM.
BIRD SEED
MY OLD MAN DIDN'T LIKE RUNTS. HE KICKED ME SO HARD ONCE AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS THAT I LANDED HALF-WAY DOWN. THAT'S A RIGHT GOOD JUMP!

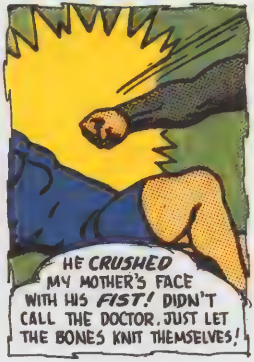
I COULD NOT SPEAK PROPERLY WHEN I WAS A KID. MY TEACHERS COULDN'T UNDERSTAND ME. I WAS A *TOTAL NERVOUS WRECK!*

LIFE AROUND OUR HOUSE WAS HELL... *SIMPLE... ...BLOODY... HELL!!*
HE KNEW MY SISTER AND I HATED, *HATED* HIM, WE TALKED ABOUT KILLING HIM.


IF THERE WAS A GUN IN THE HOUSE I WOULDA KILLED HIM DEAD.
UNFORTUNATELY, BUT IT'S TRUE.

WOULDA KILLED HIM FOR ABUSING MOTHER.

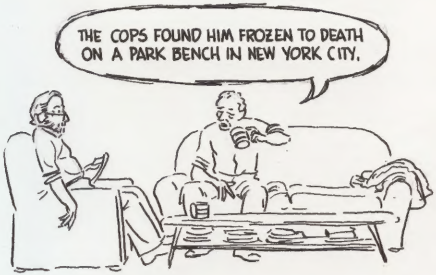

WE'D SIT UP ON EACH SIDE OF MOTHER TO PROTECT HER WHEN HE'D COME HOME RIP-ROARIN' DRUNK.
HERE'S THIS BIG, STRONG ATHLETIC GUY BEATIN' UP ON HIS WIFE. AND SHE'S JUST A LITTLE THING.

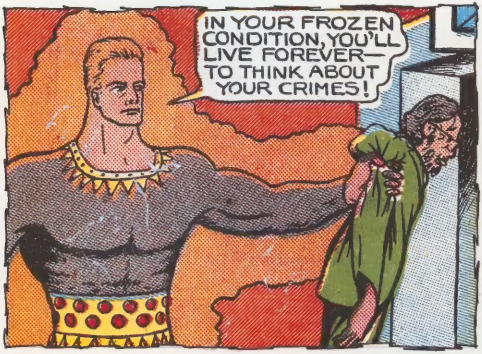

HE *CRUSHED* MY MOTHER'S FACE WITH HIS *FIST!* DIDN'T CALL THE DOCTOR. JUST LET THE BONES KNIT THEMSELVES!

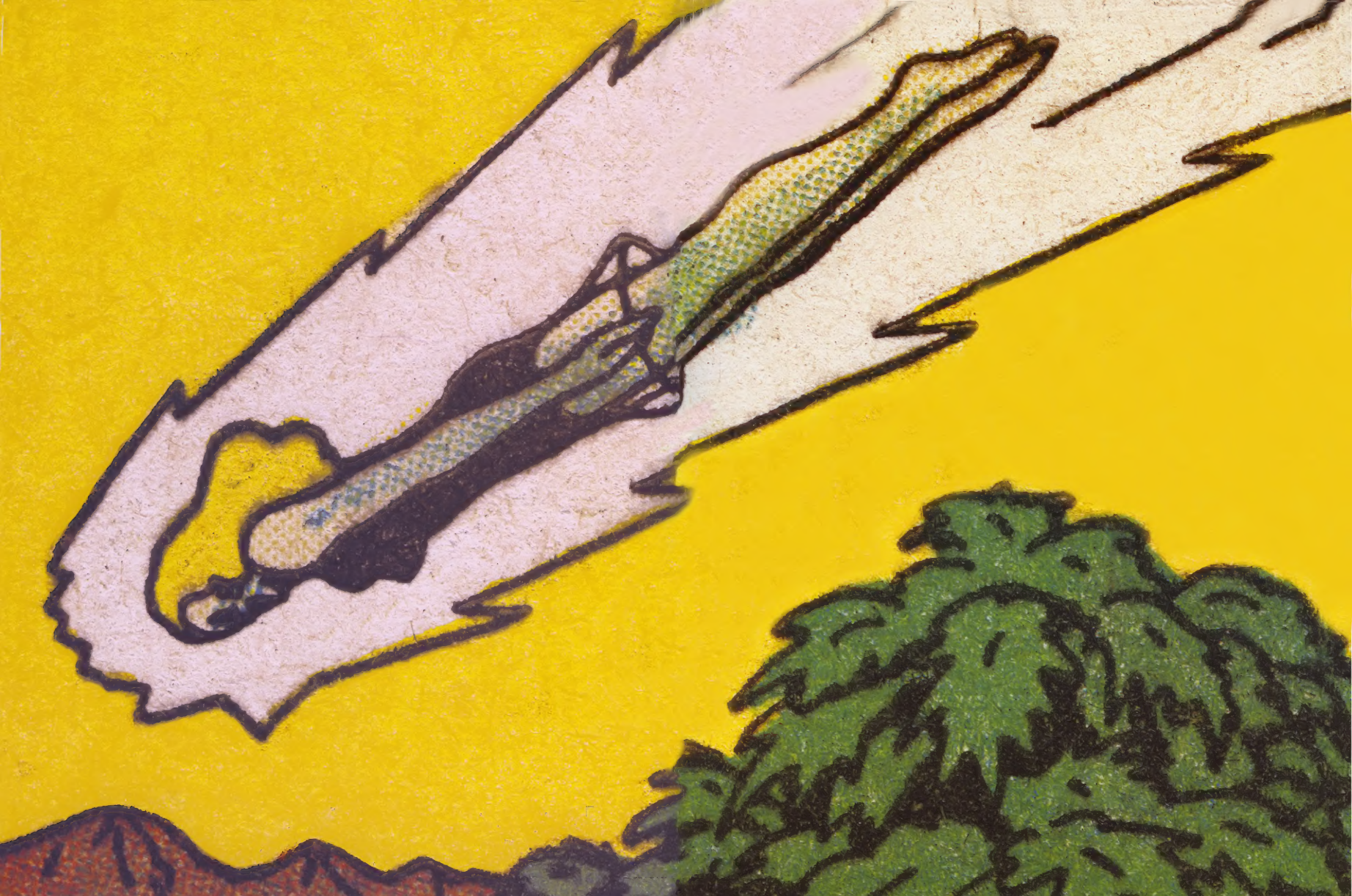
HE...? YOU...? KNIT THEMSELVES?
THEM-SELVES.
WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW... HIM?
HE TOOK OFF IN 1930. SUMBITCH STOLE ALL THE CASH I HAD SAVED FROM GROWIN' AND SELLIN' VEGETABLES.
MOTHER SAID THAT'S A CHEAP PRICE TO PAY TO BE RID OF THE BUM.
LAST TIME I SAW HIM HE WAS SHAKIN' SO BAD FROM THE D.T.'S HE COULD BARELY HOLD A PEN.
HE DIED SOMETIME IN THE 1970'S. MUSTA BEEN AROUND 90 YEARS-OLD.
YUP. OL' CHRISTY HAD A STRONG CONSTITUTION.
1975 -1940 35
90 -35 55
1975 - 90 1885
HE WAS NICKNAMED, 'CHRISTY,' AFTER THE GREAT PITCHER, CHRISTY MATHEWSON, ME BEING FLETCHER, JR., FOLKS CALL ME 'CHRISTY', TOO.
I'VE GOT ONE OF MY DAD'S OLD SKETCHES RIGHT HERE.
WHAT? I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T SAVE ANY OF HIS...
I DIDN'T SAVE ANY OF HIS CARTOONY JUNK. HE LIKED THE GREAT OUTDOORS.
>sigh<
SO I SEE.

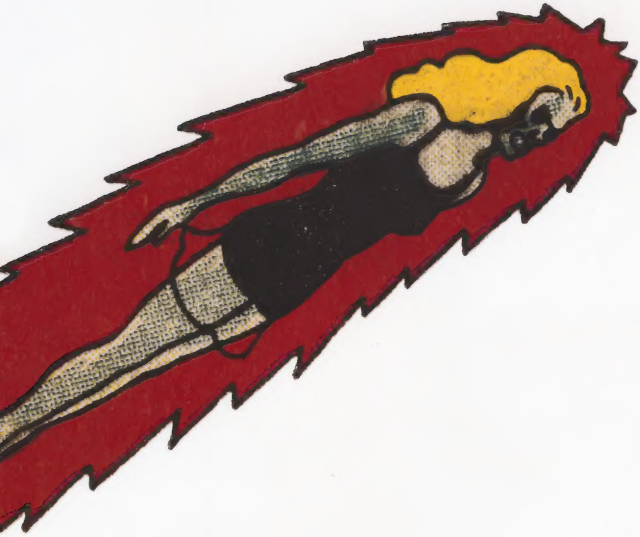
MY BROTHERS ONLY TOLD ME YEARS LATER THAT HE HAD DIED. THEY *KNEW* I HATED HIM.

...AND HOW I WOULDA KILLED HIM MYSELF YEARS BEFORE HE FROZE TO DEATH,
HUH!? BEFORE HE...?


THE COPS FOUND HIM FROZEN TO DEATH ON A PARK BENCH IN NEW YORK CITY.


IN YOUR FROZEN CONDITION, YOU'LL LIVE FOREVER— TO THINK ABOUT YOUR CRIMES!





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— R. CRUMB

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